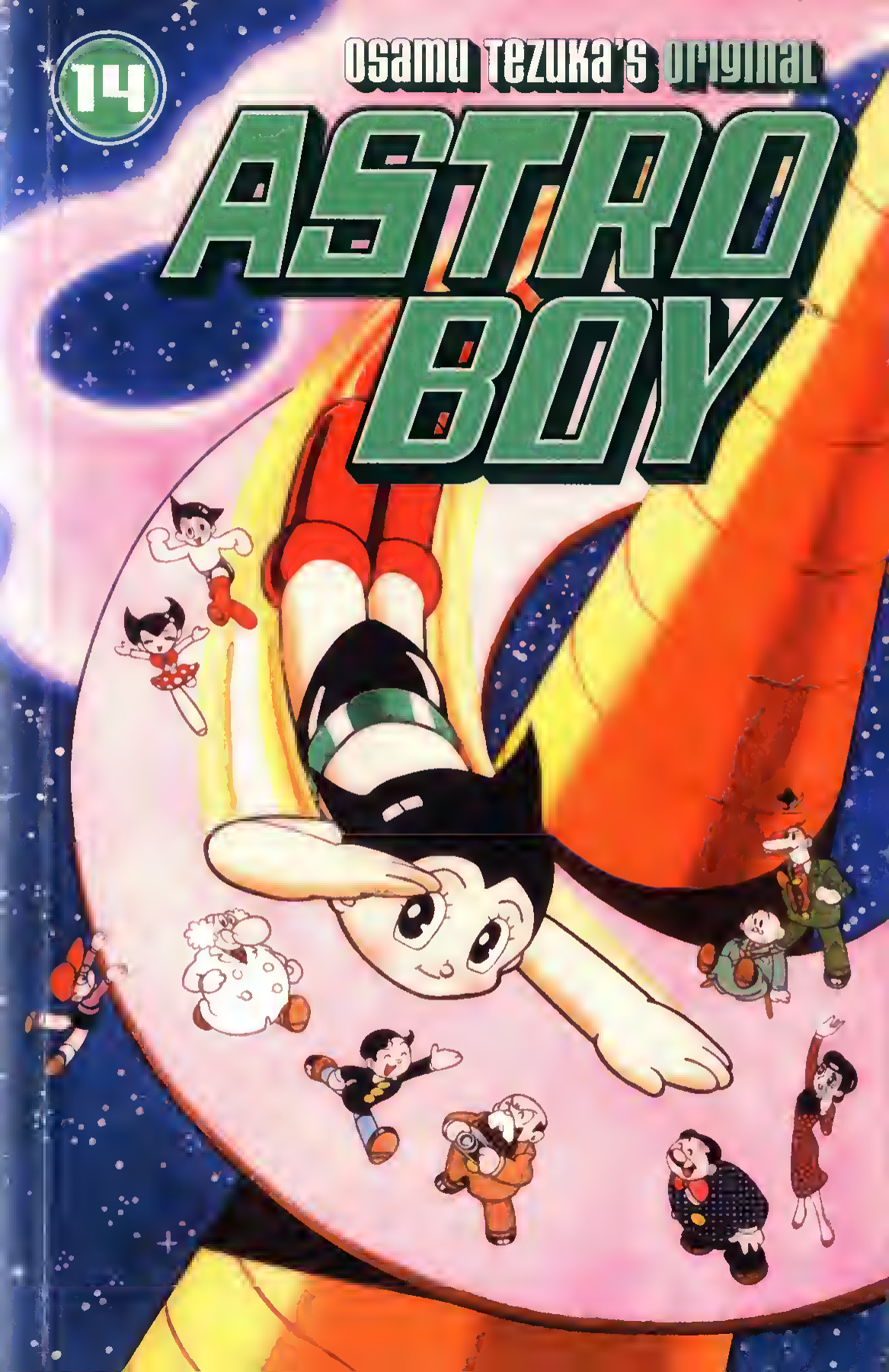
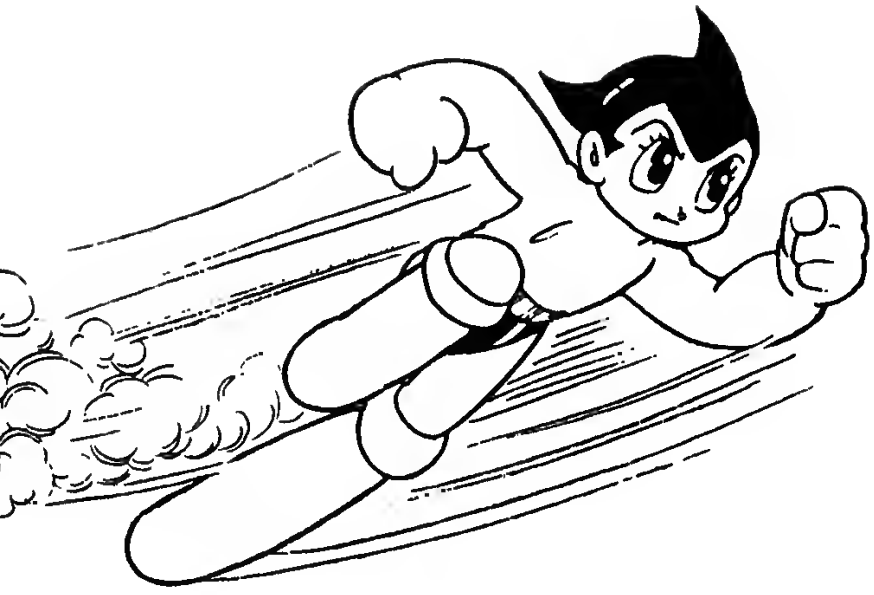

14
Osamu Tezuka's original
ASTRO BOY



ASTRO BOY

14

by

Osamu Tezuka

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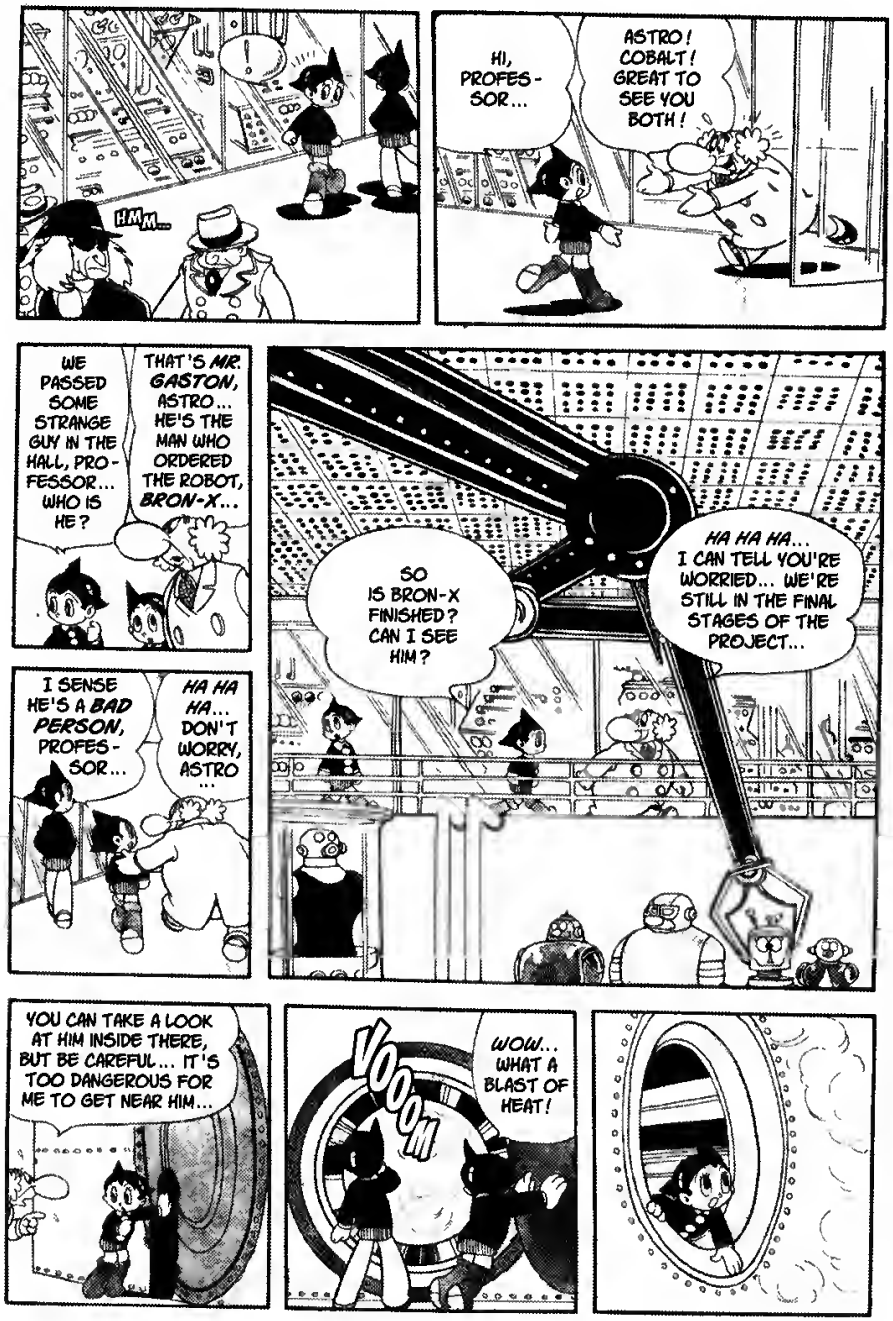
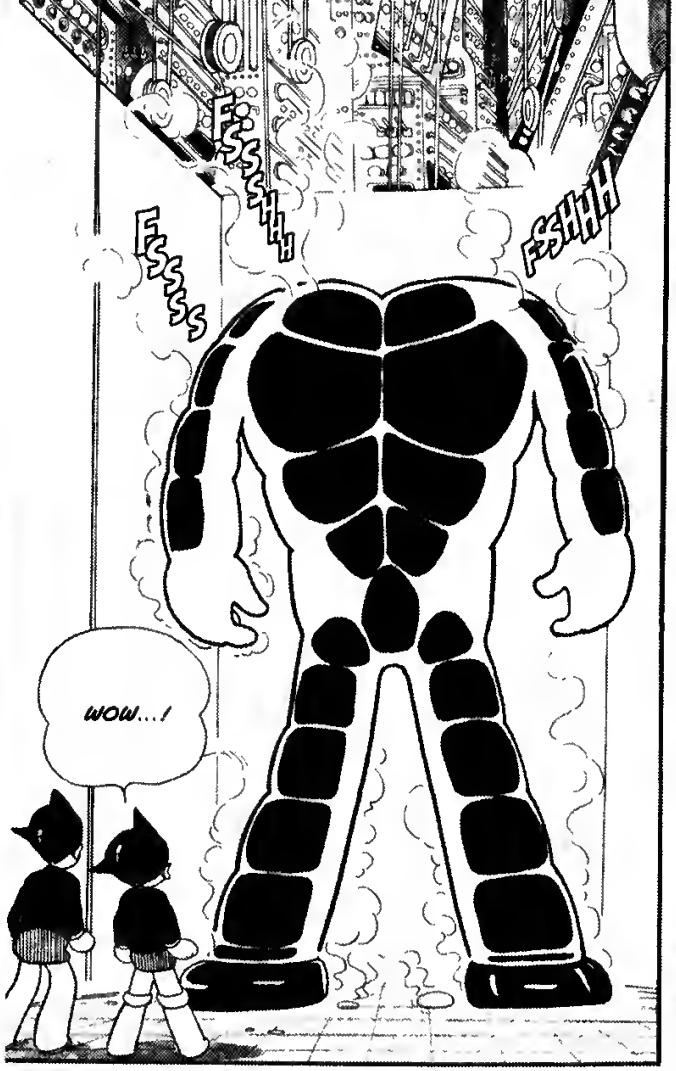
THE WHITE-HOT BEING

First serialized from January to March 1961
in *Shonen* magazine.

LOOKIT, ASTRO! THEY'RE MAKING A ROBOT MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU!
WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL ROBOT
CURRENTLY BEING MANUFACTURED AT DEPARTMENT OF PRECISION MACHINERY
A robot commissioned by Mr Gaston, of the Sutton Republic, is currently being manufactured at the Ministry of Science's department of precision machinery. With over 500,000 horsepower, it will likely be the world's most powerful
THEY SAY HE'S CALLED BRON-X, COBALT...
SAY, ASTRO...
YES, COBALT?
AREN'T YOU BOTHERED BY THE IDEA OF A ROBOT STRONGER THAN YOU?
NAW, NOT AT ALL...
IT'S BEEN OVER TEN YEARS SINCE I WAS BORN HERE AT THE MINISTRY...
SO IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMEBODY MAKES SOMETHING MORE POWERFUL...
B-BUT IF YOU HAD TO FIGHT HIM, ASTRO, YOU'D LOSE...
.....
.....
WHAT THE --?!


!
HMM...
HI, PROFESSOR...
ASTRO! COBALT! GREAT TO SEE YOU BOTH!
WE PASSED SOME STRANGE GUY IN THE HALL, PROFESSOR... WHO IS HE?
THAT'S MR. GASTON, ASTRO... HE'S THE MAN WHO ORDERED THE ROBOT, BRON-X...
SO IS BRON-X FINISHED? CAN I SEE HIM?
HA HA HA... I CAN TELL YOU'RE WORRIED... WE'RE STILL IN THE FINAL STAGES OF THE PROJECT...
I SENSE HE'S A BAD PERSON, PROFESSOR...
HA HA HA... DON'T WORRY, ASTRO...
YOU CAN TAKE A LOOK AT HIM INSIDE THERE, BUT BE CAREFUL... IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR ME TO GET NEAR HIM...
VOOOM
WOW... WHAT A BLAST OF HEAT!


FSSSSHH
FSSSS
FSHHH
WOW...!

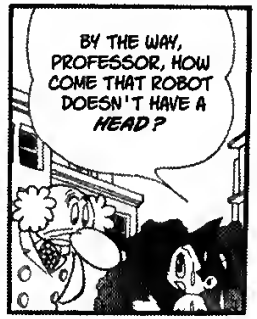
MY CLOTHES'RE SO HOT...
...I'M ON FIRE !!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

...INTO SOME WATER!
KERSPLASH

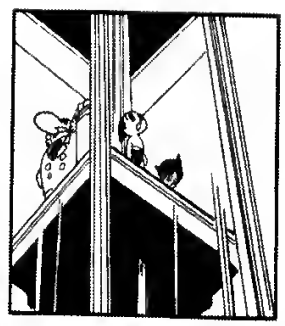
WHAT HAPPENED, ASTRO...? YOUR CLOTHES CATCH ON FIRE?
YOU'RE A ROBOT, SO YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL HOT...

MY BODY'S FINE, BUT THE BRAND NEW CLOTHES I PUT ON THIS MORNING AREN'T...

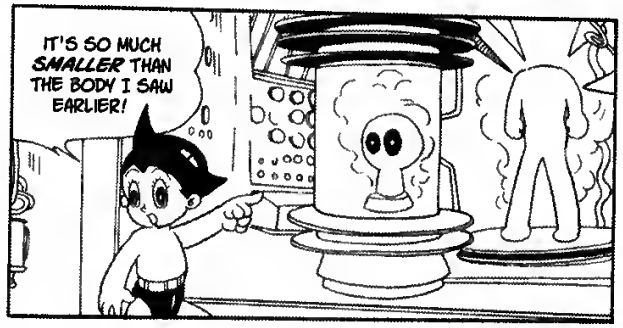

BY THE WAY, PROFESSOR, HOW COME THAT ROBOT DOESN'T HAVE A HEAD?

HEAD? OH, THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE STILL MAKING IT...

WE'RE BUILDING IT IN A SEPARATE PLACE... C'MON, I'LL SHOW YOU...

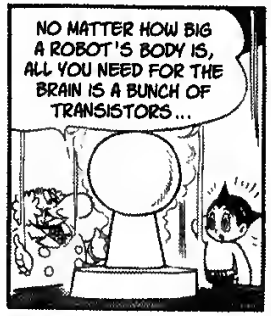


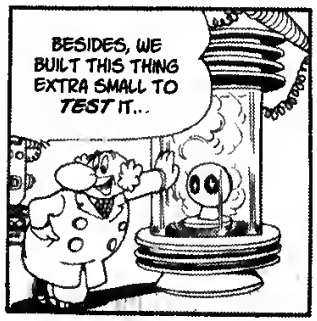
THIS IS THE HEAD?!


IT'S SO MUCH SMALLER THAN THE BODY I SAW EARLIER!

IT'LL NEVER FIT, PROFES-SOR...

HA HA... I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO NEGATIVE BEFORE, ASTRO...

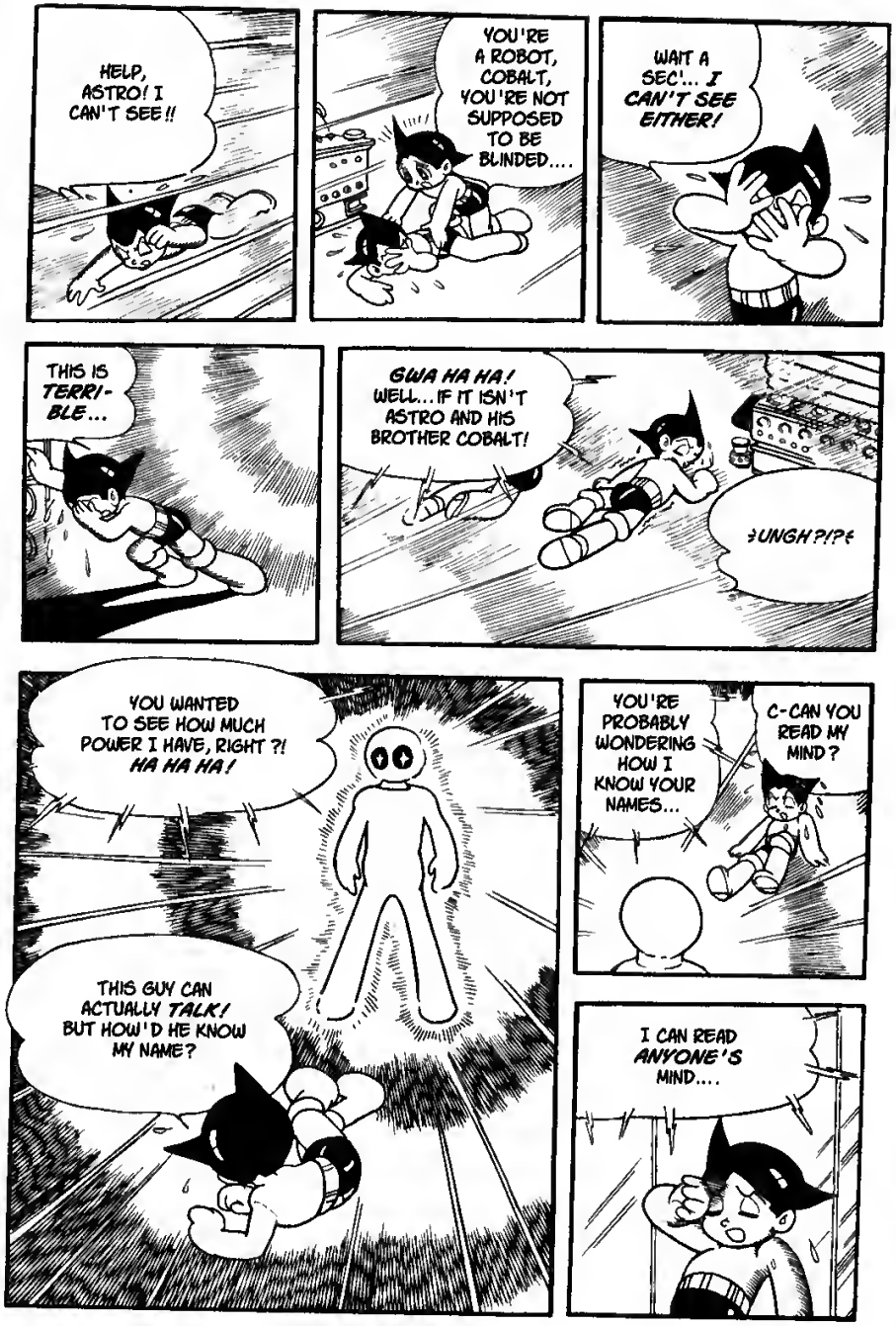

NO MATTER HOW BIG A ROBOT'S BODY IS, ALL YOU NEED FOR THE BRAIN IS A BUNCH OF TRANSISTORS...

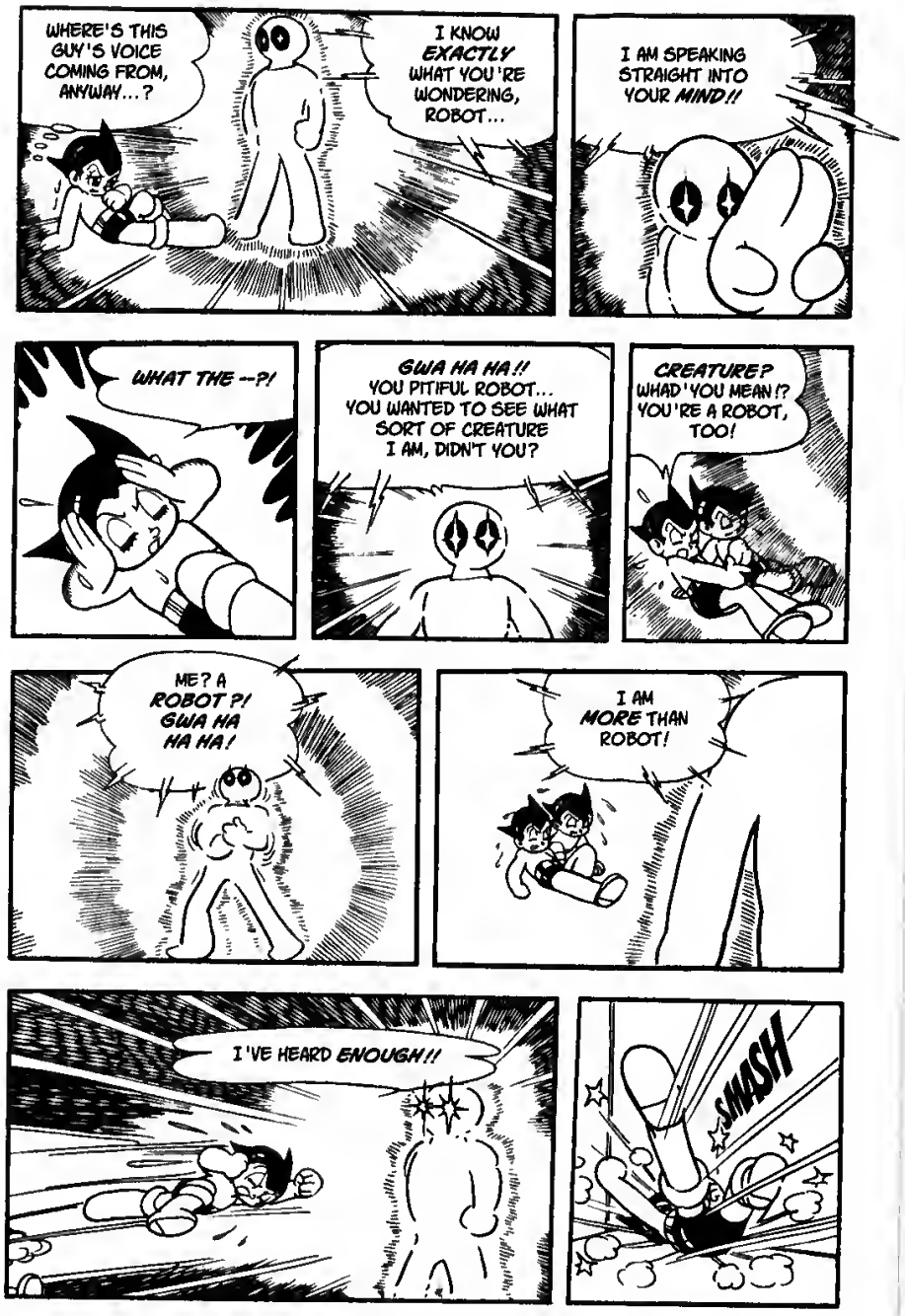

BESIDES, WE BUILT THIS THING EXTRA SMALL TO TEST IT...

FOR THE TEST, WE'LL PUT THE HEAD ON THIS BODY...

CAN I TRY 'N PUT IT ON?
NOPE...

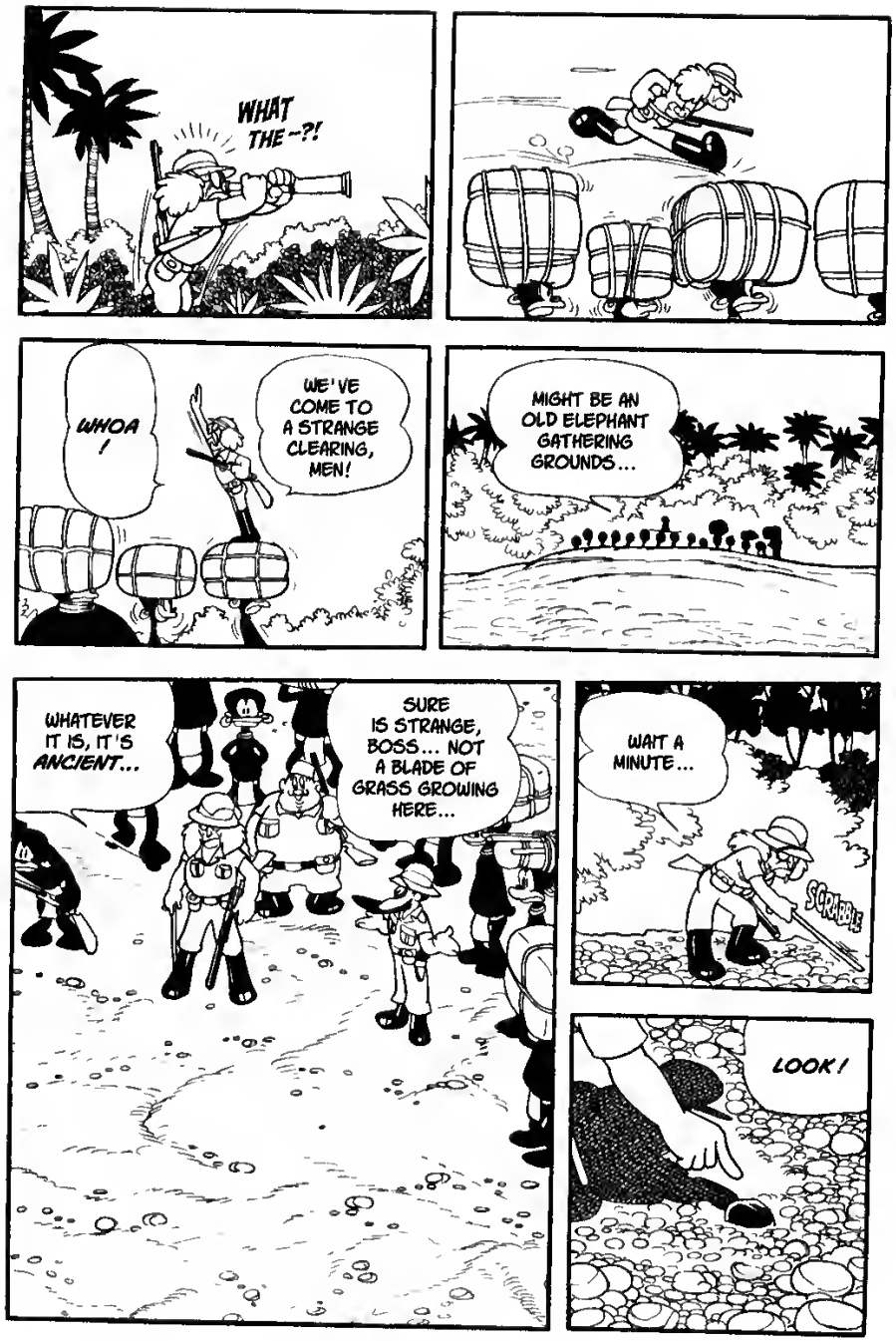
GOSH, I'D LOVE TO PUT IT ON HIM, ASTRO...
HEY, ASTRO... THE PROFESSOR'S GONE... LET'S TRY IT!
NO, COBALT!
WHAT'S A MATTER, ASTRO? DON'T YOU WANNA FIND OUT HOW STRONG BRON-X REALLY IS?
KNOCK IT OFF, COBALT!!
C'MON, ASTRO... IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, YOU CAN BLAME IT ON ME....
I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS...
CREAK
CHAK
ESSST
LOOK! IT'S STARTED TO GLOW!
FLASH
HELP! IT'S BLINDING!
FLASH

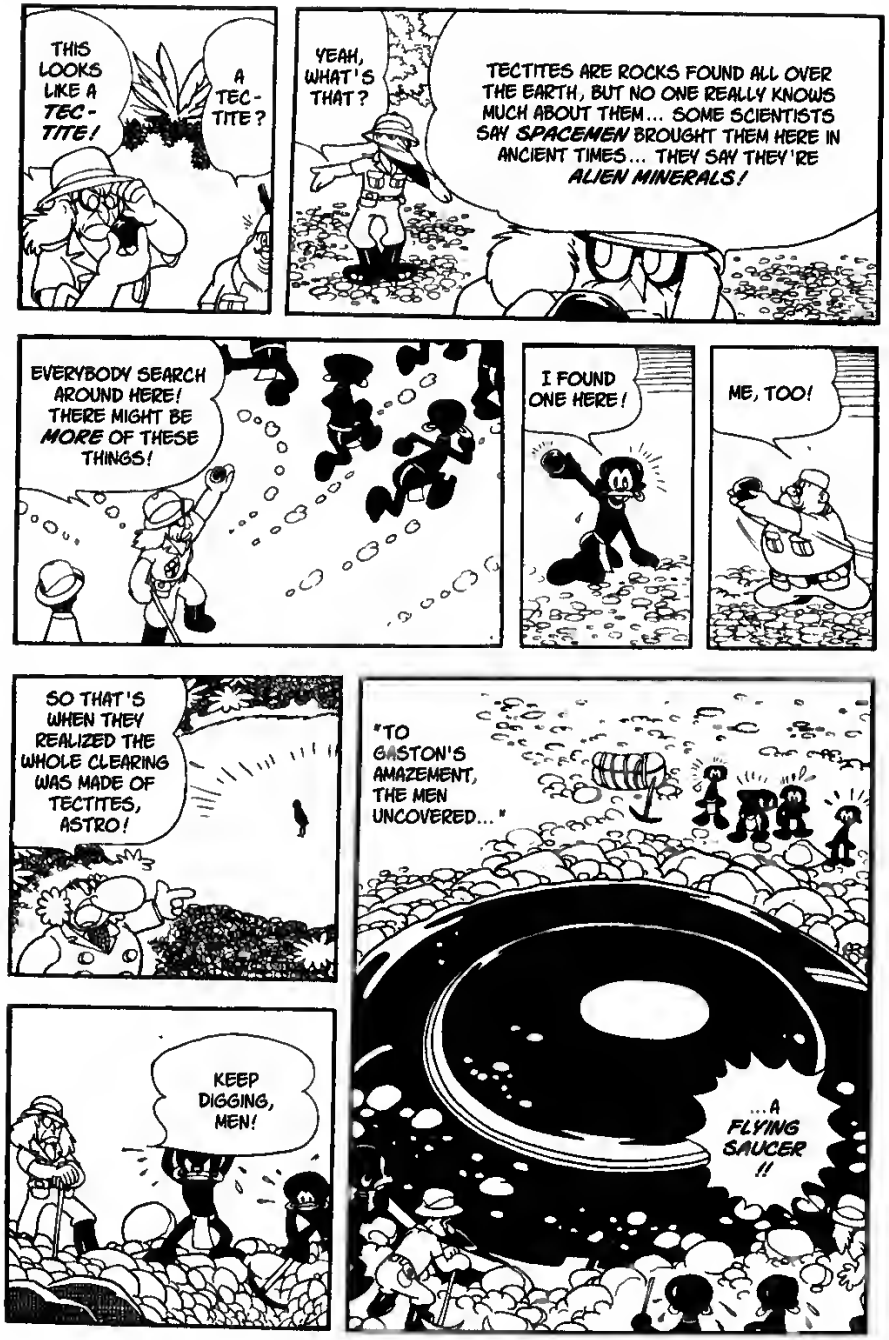

HELP, ASTRO! I CAN'T SEE!!
YOU'RE A ROBOT, COBALT, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE BLINDED....
WAIT A SEC!... I CAN'T SEE EITHER!
THIS IS TERRIBLE...
GWA HA HA! WELL... IF IT ISN'T ASTRO AND HIS BROTHER COBALT!
}UNGH?!?{
YOU WANTED TO SEE HOW MUCH POWER I HAVE, RIGHT?! HA HA HA!
YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING HOW I KNOW YOUR NAMES...
C-CAN YOU READ MY MIND?
THIS GUY CAN ACTUALLY TALK! BUT HOW'D HE KNOW MY NAME?
I CAN READ ANYONE'S MIND....


WHERE'S THIS GUY'S VOICE COMING FROM, ANYWAY...?
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE WONDERING, ROBOT...
I AM SPEAKING STRAIGHT INTO YOUR MIND!!
WHAT THE --P!
GWA HA HA!! YOU PITIFUL ROBOT... YOU WANTED TO SEE WHAT SORT OF CREATURE I AM, DIDN'T YOU?
CREATURE? WHAD'YOU MEAN!? YOU'RE A ROBOT, TOO!
ME? A ROBOT P! GWA HA HA HA!
I AM MORE THAN ROBOT!
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!!
SMASH

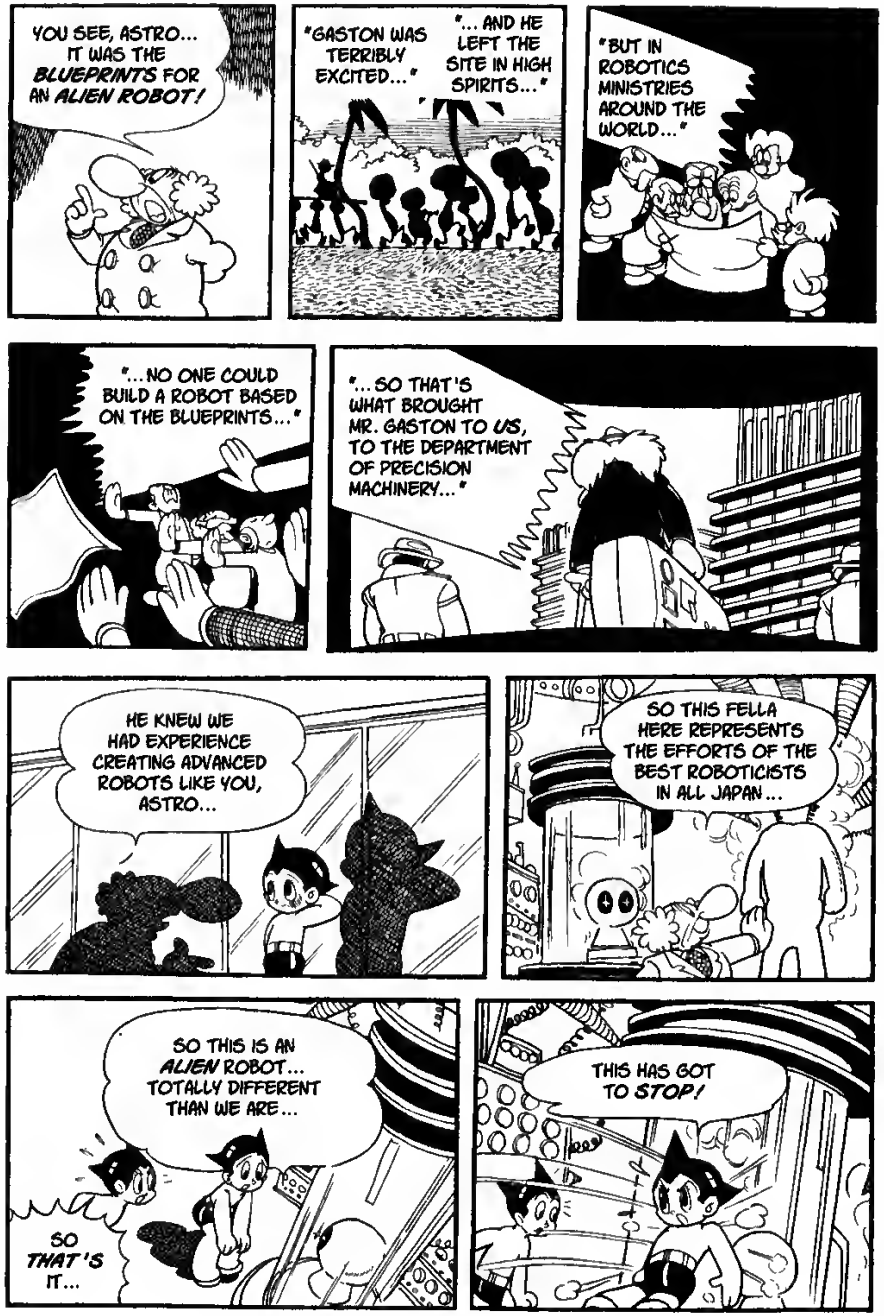
ZAP ZAP
ARGH!
ONE MORE TRY!!
FSSSSH
FSSSST
I SHALL DEFEAT ALL ROBOTS! AND ALL HUMANS, TOO!! LIKE THIS!
PROFESSOR! HELP US!!
WHAT IS IT, COBALT?
WHA?! SOMEBODY ACTIVATED BRON-X!!?
KACHUNK

FOOLS! WHY'D YOU DO THIS?!
I NEVER GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO START HIM, ASTRO! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT!
PSSH!
I'LL FORGIVE YOU THIS TIME, BUT GET OUT OF HERE!
FOOLING AROUND WITH BRON-X'LL GET YOU GUYS INTO BIG TROUBLE, UNDERSTAND!?
HMPH! GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE NOW BUT TO TELL YOU, DO I...? IT'S LIKE THIS...
THERE'S A PEAK CALLED "BRON" IN THE RUWENZORI MOUNTAINS IN AFRICA...
I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR... BUT YOU'VE GOTTA TELL US... WHAT IS BRON-X? A ROBOT? OR SOMETHING ELSE?
BOMP BOPPITY BOMP
TWEE BOMP
GASTON
"IT WAS DISCOVERED BY AN EXPLORER NAMED GASTON..."
BOMP BOPPITY GASTON

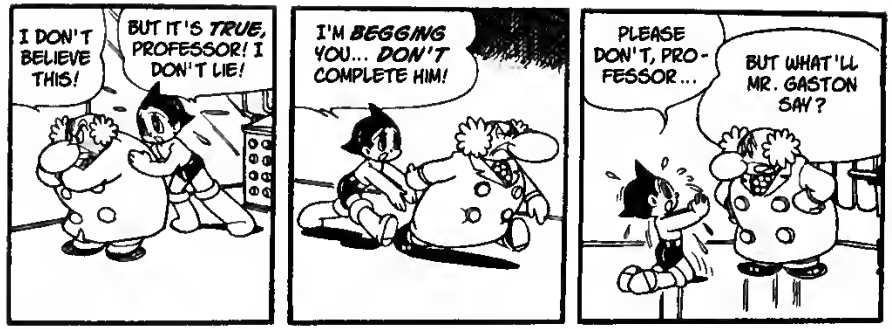

WHAT THE--?!
WHOA!
WE'VE COME TO A STRANGE CLEARING, MEN!
MIGHT BE AN OLD ELEPHANT GATHERING GROUNDS...
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S ANCIENT...
SURE IS STRANGE, BOSS... NOT A BLADE OF GRASS GROWING HERE...
WAIT A MINUTE...
SCRIBBLE
LOOK!

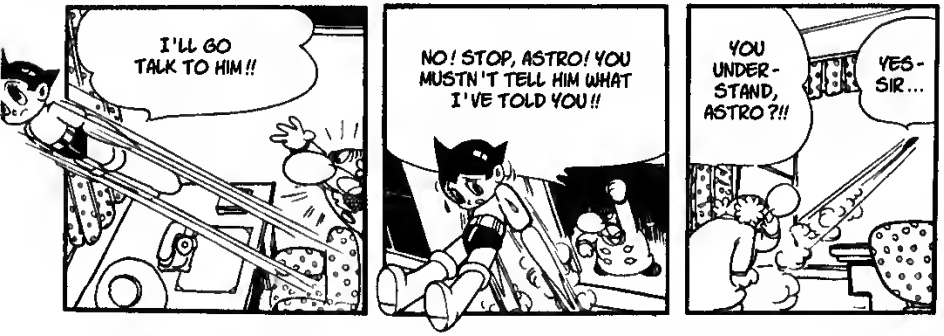

THIS LOOKS LIKE A TEC-TITE!
A TEC-TITE?
YEAH, WHAT'S THAT?
TECTITES ARE ROCKS FOUND ALL OVER THE EARTH, BUT NO ONE REALLY KNOWS MUCH ABOUT THEM... SOME SCIENTISTS SAY SPACEMEN BROUGHT THEM HERE IN ANCIENT TIMES... THEY SAY THEY'RE ALIEN MINERALS!
EVERYBODY SEARCH AROUND HERE! THERE MIGHT BE MORE OF THESE THINGS!
I FOUND ONE HERE!
ME, TOO!
SO THAT'S WHEN THEY REALIZED THE WHOLE CLEARING WAS MADE OF TECTITES, ASTRO!
"TO GASTON'S AMAZEMENT, THE MEN UNCOVERED..."
...A FLYING SAUCER !!
KEEP DIGGING, MEN!

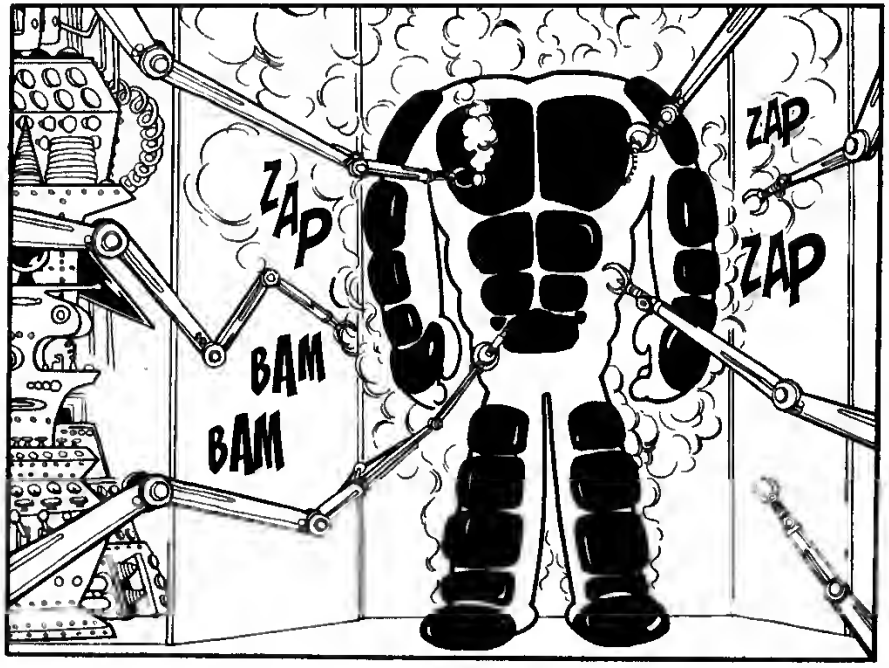
"IT WAS JUST AS GASTON HAD SUS-PECTED ..."
"A FLYING SAUCER HAD APPARENTLY CRASHED ON THE SITE YEARS AGO..."
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... THIS IS AN ALIEN SHIP!
WE'VE UNCOVERED SOMETHING REALLY BIG HERE, MEN...
MR. GASTON, SIR! I FOUND SOMETHING WITH STRANGE WRITING!
LET ME SEE ...
WELL, I'LL BE....
YAHOOO!
HOOO-RAAA-AY!
YIKES!
HEY! DON'T LEAVE! COME BACK!

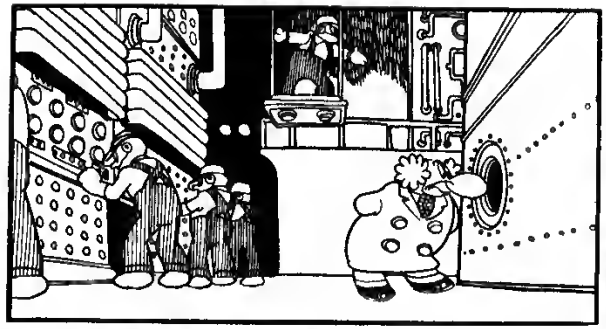

YOU SEE, ASTRO... IT WAS THE BLUEPRINTS FOR AN ALIEN ROBOT!
"GASTON WAS TERRIBLY EXCITED..."
"... AND HE LEFT THE SITE IN HIGH SPIRITS..."
"BUT IN ROBOTICS MINISTRIES AROUND THE WORLD..."
"... NO ONE COULD BUILD A ROBOT BASED ON THE BLUEPRINTS..."
"... SO THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT MR. GASTON TO US, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PRECISION MACHINERY..."
HE KNEW WE HAD EXPERIENCE CREATING ADVANCED ROBOTS LIKE YOU, ASTRO...
SO THIS FELLA HERE REPRESENTS THE EFFORTS OF THE BEST ROBOTICISTS IN ALL JAPAN...
SO THIS IS AN ALIEN ROBOT... TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN WE ARE...
SO THAT'S IT...
THIS HAS GOT TO STOP!

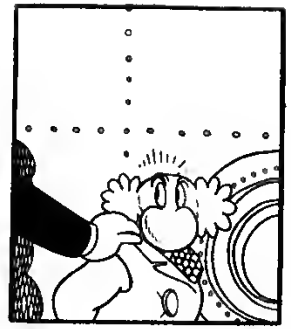
THIS THING'S NO FRIEND OF HUMANS, PROFESSOR!
IT'S HERE TO CONQUER EARTH!!
HA HA! YOU MUST BE JOKING, ASTRO!
ROBOTS ARE MADE TO SERVE HUMANS....
NO, PROFESSOR.... NOT THIS ONE!
HIS MASTER'S AN ALIEN! AND HE'S MAKING FOOLS OF US!!
B-BUT WHERE'S THE PROOF, ASTRO?
HE TOLD ME DIRECTLY! HE SPOKE RIGHT TO MY MIND...
YOUR MIND?
THERE'S NO WAY A ROBOT COULD DO THAT!
YOU'RE SURE HE SPOKE TO YOU? HE NEVER SAID ANYTHING TO ME...
THAT'S 'CUZ HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK TO HUMANS YET!


I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
BUT IT'S TRUE, PROFESSOR! I DON'T LIE!
I'M BEGGING YOU... DON'T COMPLETE HIM!
PLEASE DON'T, PROFESSOR...
BUT WHAT'LL MR. GASTON SAY?

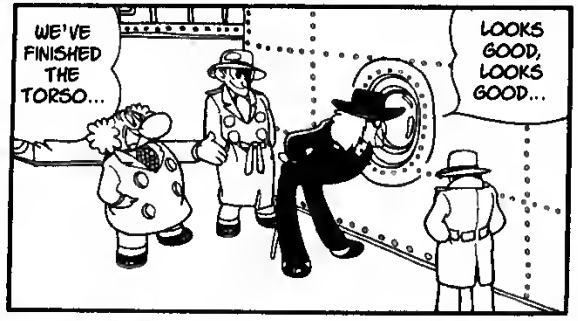

I'LL GO TALK TO HIM!!
NO! STOP, ASTRO! YOU MUSTN'T TELL HIM WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU!!
YOU UNDERSTAND, ASTRO?!!
YES-SIR...

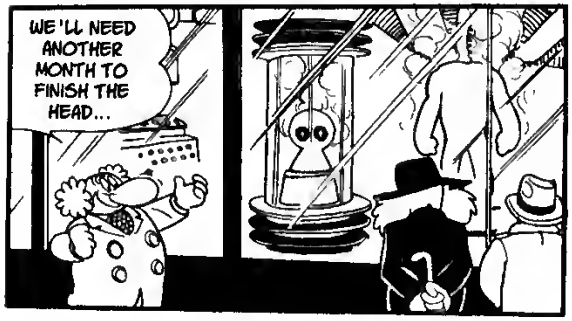

ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
BAM
BAM

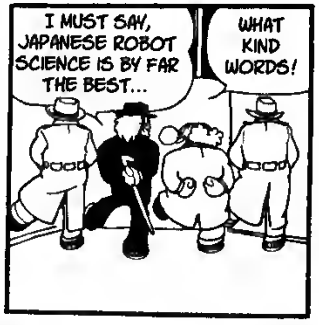




WELL, PROFESSOR... HOW'S IT GOING?
AH, MR. GASTON...


WE'VE FINISHED THE TORSO...
LOOKS GOOD, LOOKS GOOD...


WE'LL NEED ANOTHER MONTH TO FINISH THE HEAD...

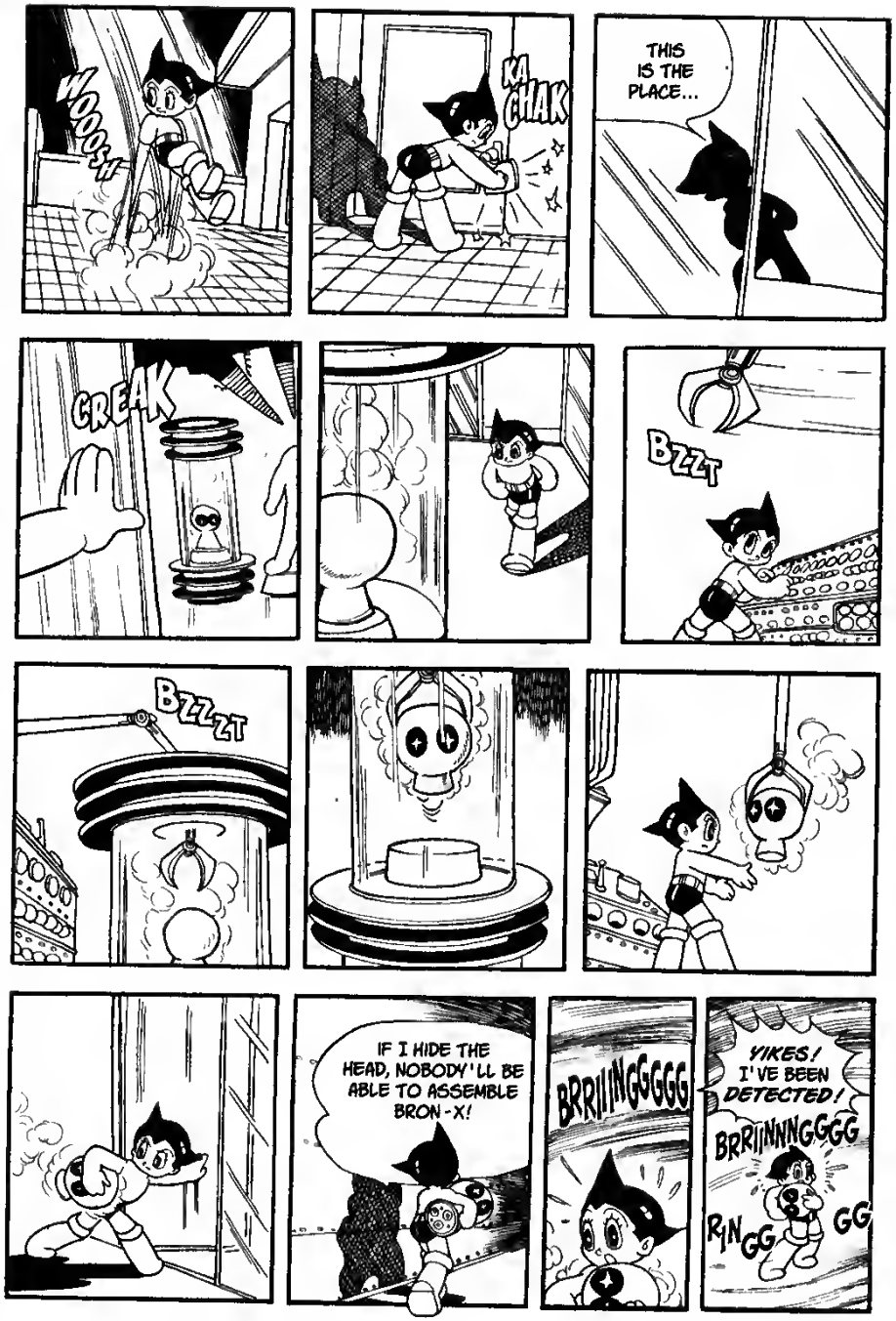

I MUST SAY, JAPANESE ROBOT SCIENCE IS BY FAR THE BEST...
WHAT KIND WORDS!

IF THE ALIENS SHOULD LEARN OF THIS...

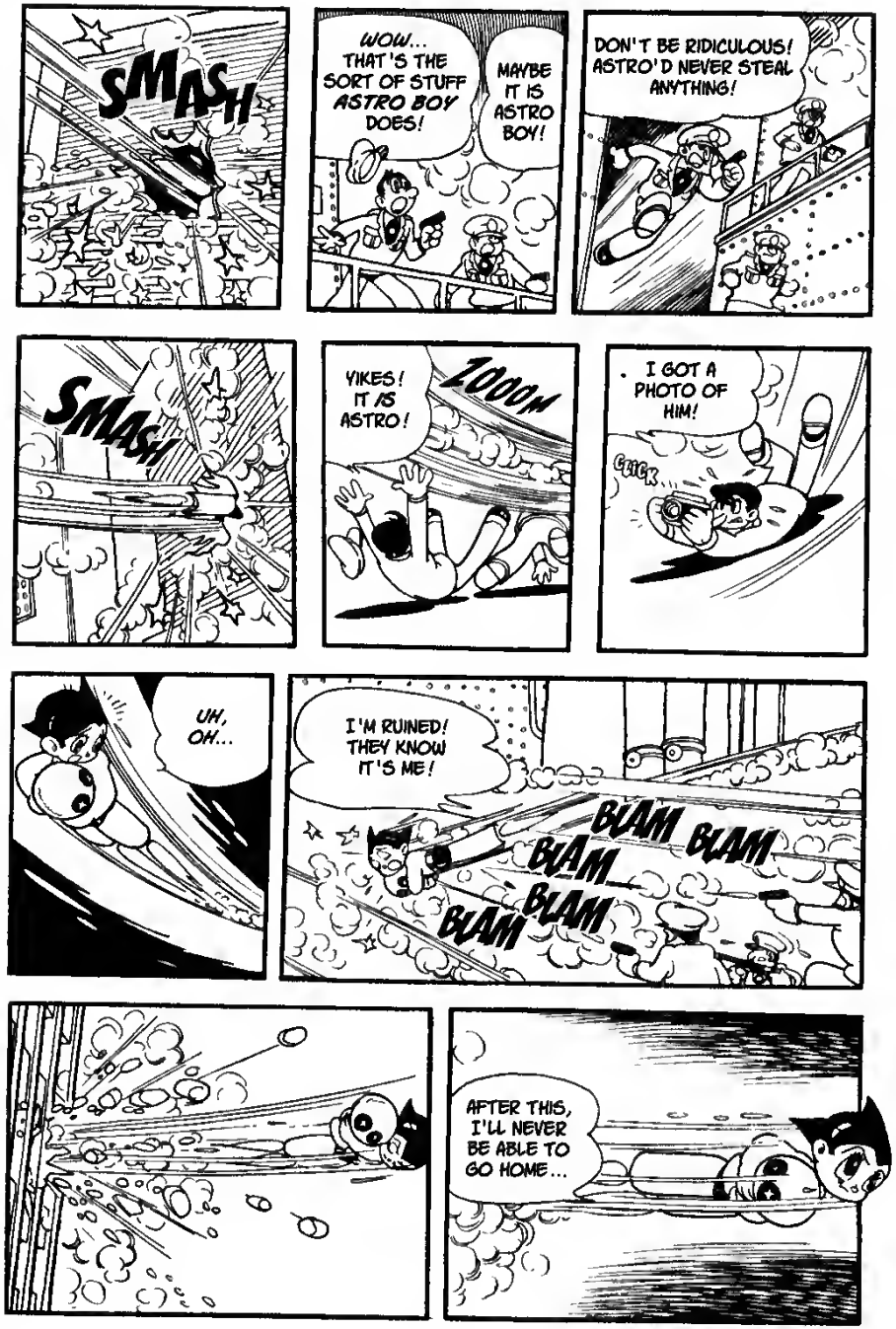
...THEY MIGHT BE A BIT UPSET... BUT I LEAVE IT UTO YOU, PROFESSOR...

ONE MORE MONTH...

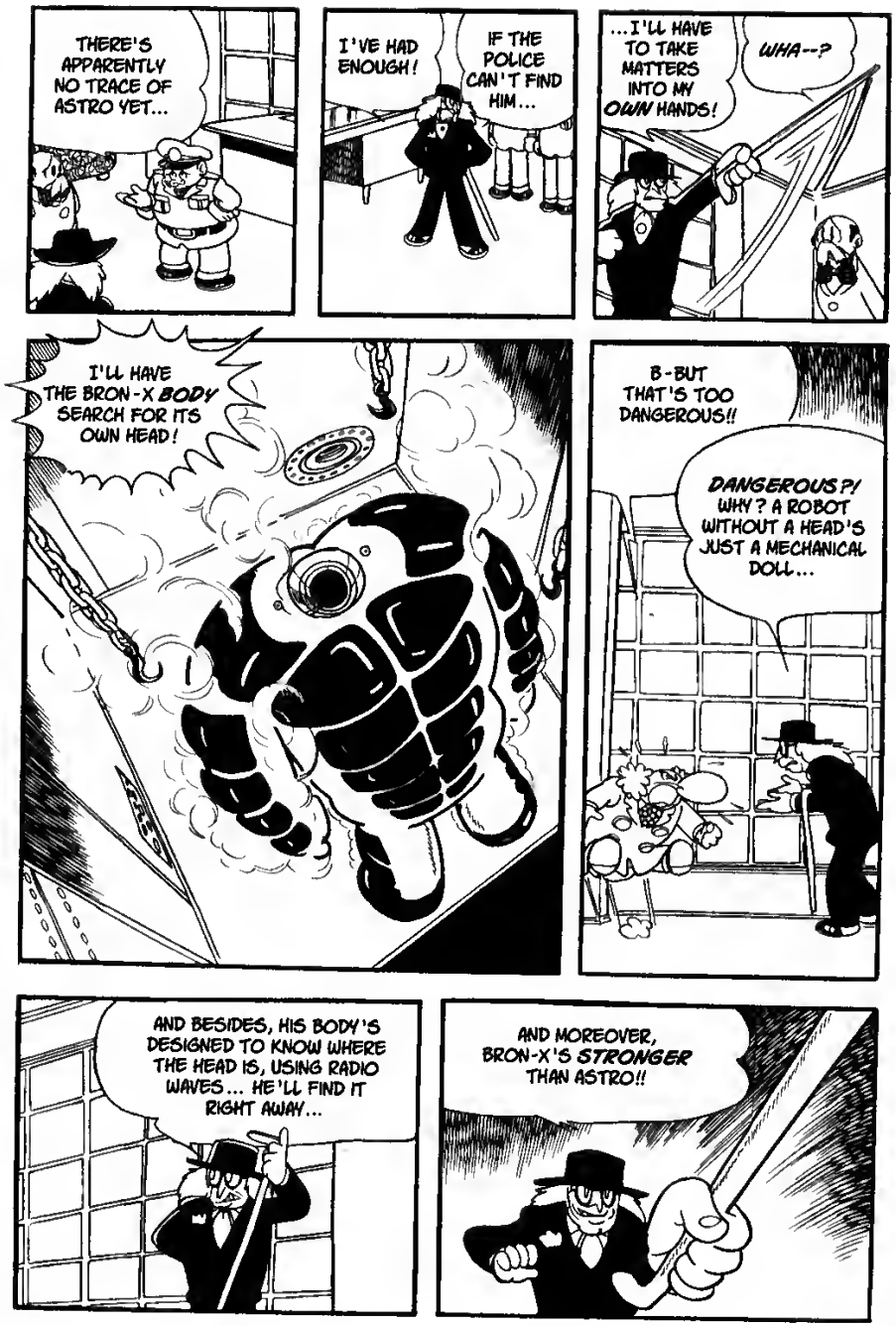
HEY, YOU HEAR? THEY'RE GONNA FINISH BRON-X IN ANOTHER MONTH!
SURE WOULD BE FUN TO SEE ASTRO SLUG IT OUT WITH HIM...
YOU HEARD ABOUT THIS BRON-X ROBOT, ASTRO?
YEAH...
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU SURE IS AMAZING...
G'NITE MOM!
G'NITE, DEARS...
BEEP BEEP BEEP
ZZZZ ZZZZ
HMPH...
SORRY TO DO THIS TO YOU, MOM 'N DAD...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER BEEN A THIEF...
I KNOW I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO DO THIS, BUT IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANS...

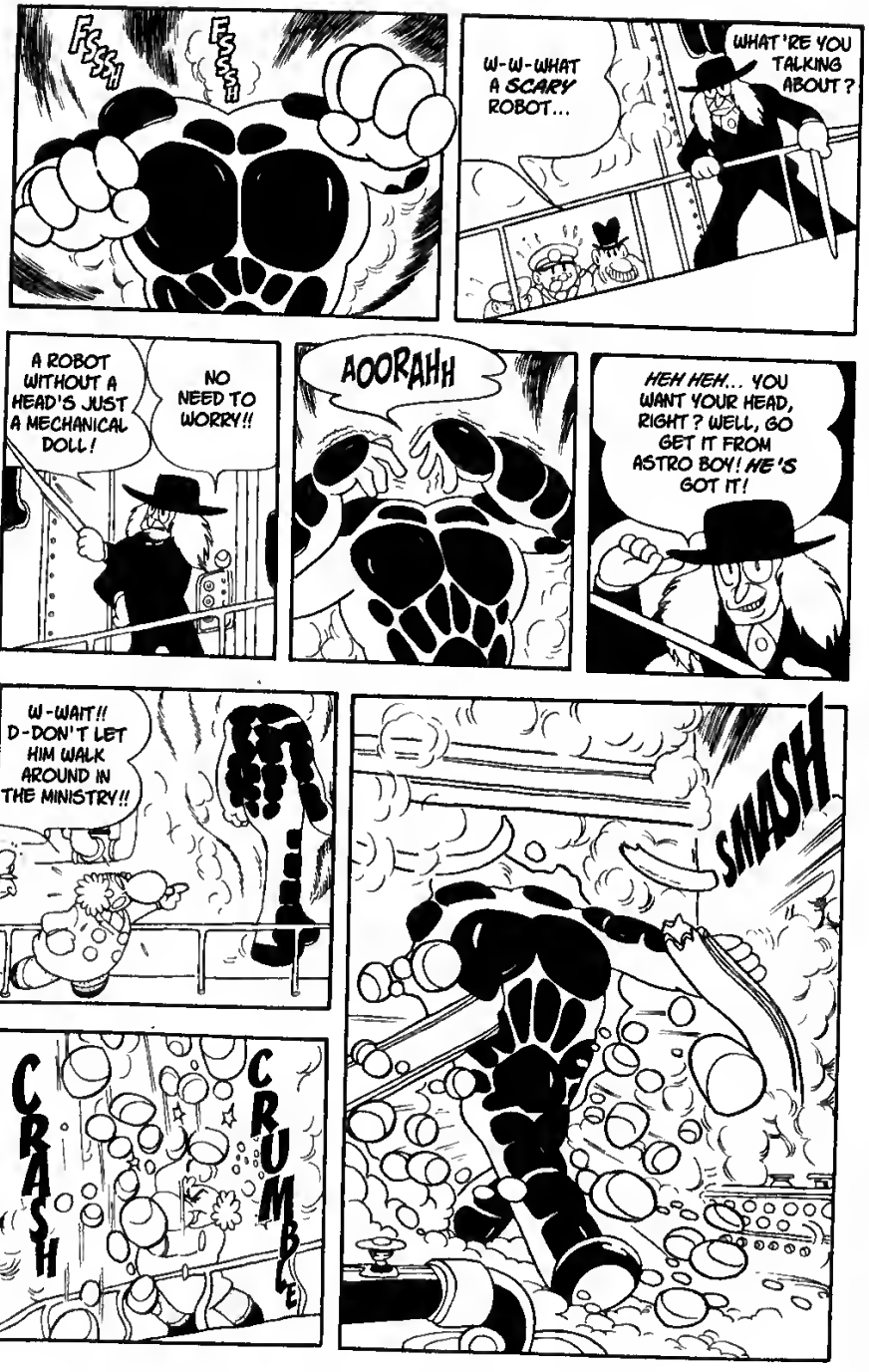

WOOSH
KA CHAK
THIS IS THE PLACE...
CREAK
BZZT
BZZZT
IF I HIDE THE HEAD, NOBODY'LL BE ABLE TO ASSEMBLE BRON-X!
BRRIINGGGGG
YIKES! I'VE BEEN DETECTED!
BRRIINNGGGG
RINGG GG

RRRRIINNNNNGGG BRINNNGGGG
TRAMP TRAMP
STOP! THIEF!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! HE'S STOLEN SOMETHING!
IT'S A ROBOT! SHOOT HIM DOWN!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
ZING
ZING
PLINK
LOWER ALL SHUTTERS! DON'T LET HIM OUT!
CREAK CREAK


SMASH
WOW... THAT'S THE SORT OF STUFF ASTRO BOY DOES!
MAYBE IT IS ASTRO BOY!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! ASTRO'D NEVER STEAL ANYTHING!
SMASH
YIKES! IT IS ASTRO!
I GOT A PHOTO OF HIM!
CLICK
UH, OH...
I'M RUINED! THEY KNOW IT'S ME!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
AFTER THIS, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO HOME...

GOTTA FIND SOMEPLACE TO HIDE THIS THING...
WHAT?! ASTRO STOLE BRON-X'S HEAD?!!
WELL, WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?! EH?!
AND AS FOR THE POLICE... WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU THINKING...
...LEAVING A DANGEROUS ROBOT UN-GUARDED!?
EH?
W-WE NEVER DREAMED ASTRO'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
ALL I CAN THINK IS THAT ASTRO PROB'LY STOLE IT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE A ROBOT MORE POWERFUL THAN HIM...
EXACT-LY!
NOW YOU'RE TALKING!
BRRRRRING
'ELLO? NAKAMURA HERE, CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS, SECTION 2...
I SEE... NO SIGN OF HIM YET, EH...


THERE'S APPARENTLY NO TRACE OF ASTRO YET...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
IF THE POLICE CAN'T FIND HIM...
...I'LL HAVE TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS!
WHA--?
I'LL HAVE THE BRON-X BODY SEARCH FOR ITS OWN HEAD!
B-BUT THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS!!
DANGEROUS?! WHY? A ROBOT WITHOUT A HEAD'S JUST A MECHANICAL DOLL...
AND BESIDES, HIS BODY'S DESIGNED TO KNOW WHERE THE HEAD IS, USING RADIO WAVES... HE'LL FIND IT RIGHT AWAY...
AND MOREOVER, BRON-X'S STRONGER THAN ASTRO!!

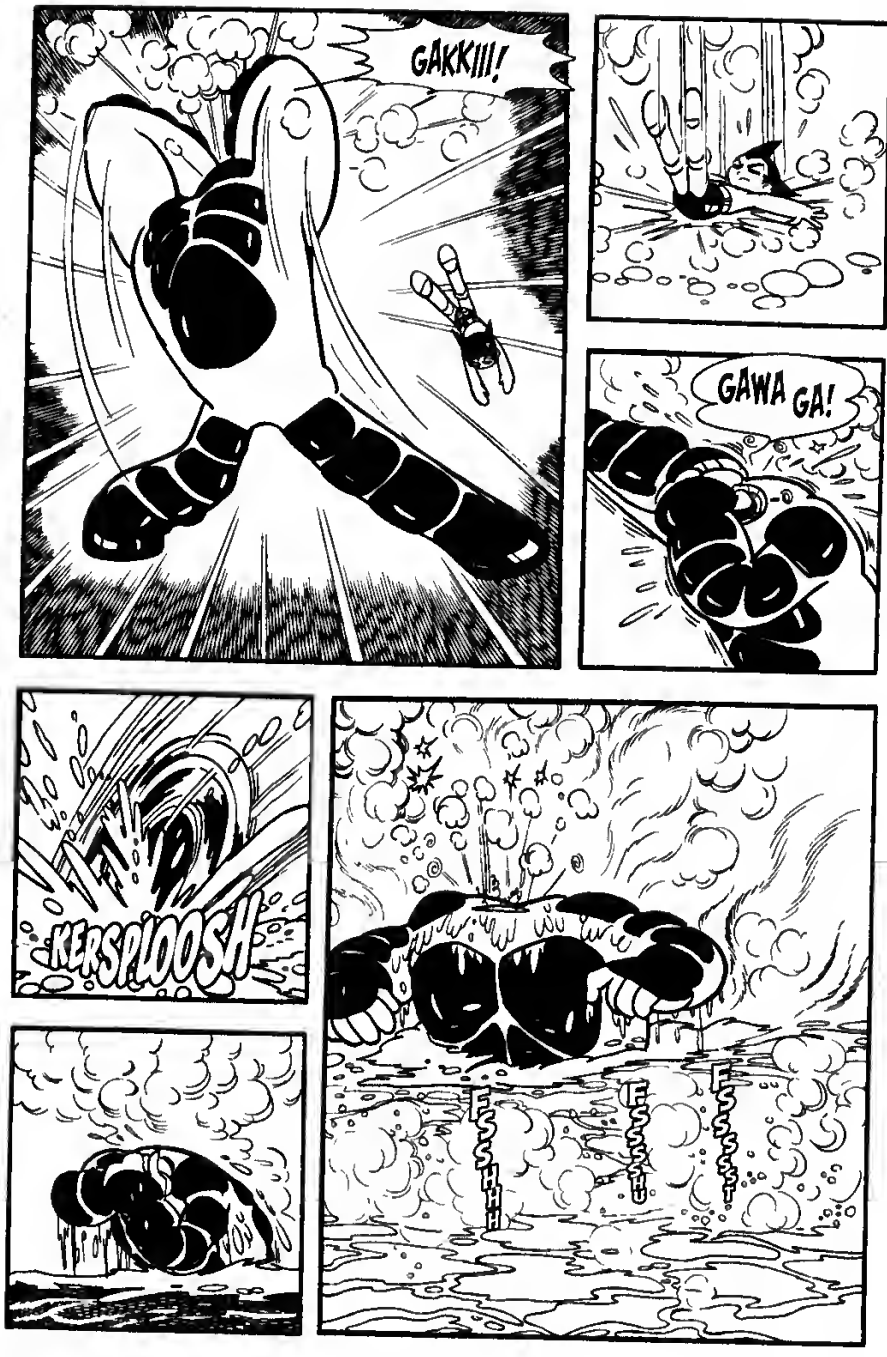

FSSSH
FSSSH
W-W-WHAT A SCARY ROBOT...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
A ROBOT WITHOUT A HEAD'S JUST A MECHANICAL DOLL!
NO NEED TO WORRY!!
AOORAHH
HEH HEH... YOU WANT YOUR HEAD, RIGHT? WELL, GO GET IT FROM ASTRO BOY! HE'S GOT IT!
W-WAIT!! D-DON'T LET HIM WALK AROUND IN THE MINISTRY!!
SMASH
CRASH
CRUMBLE

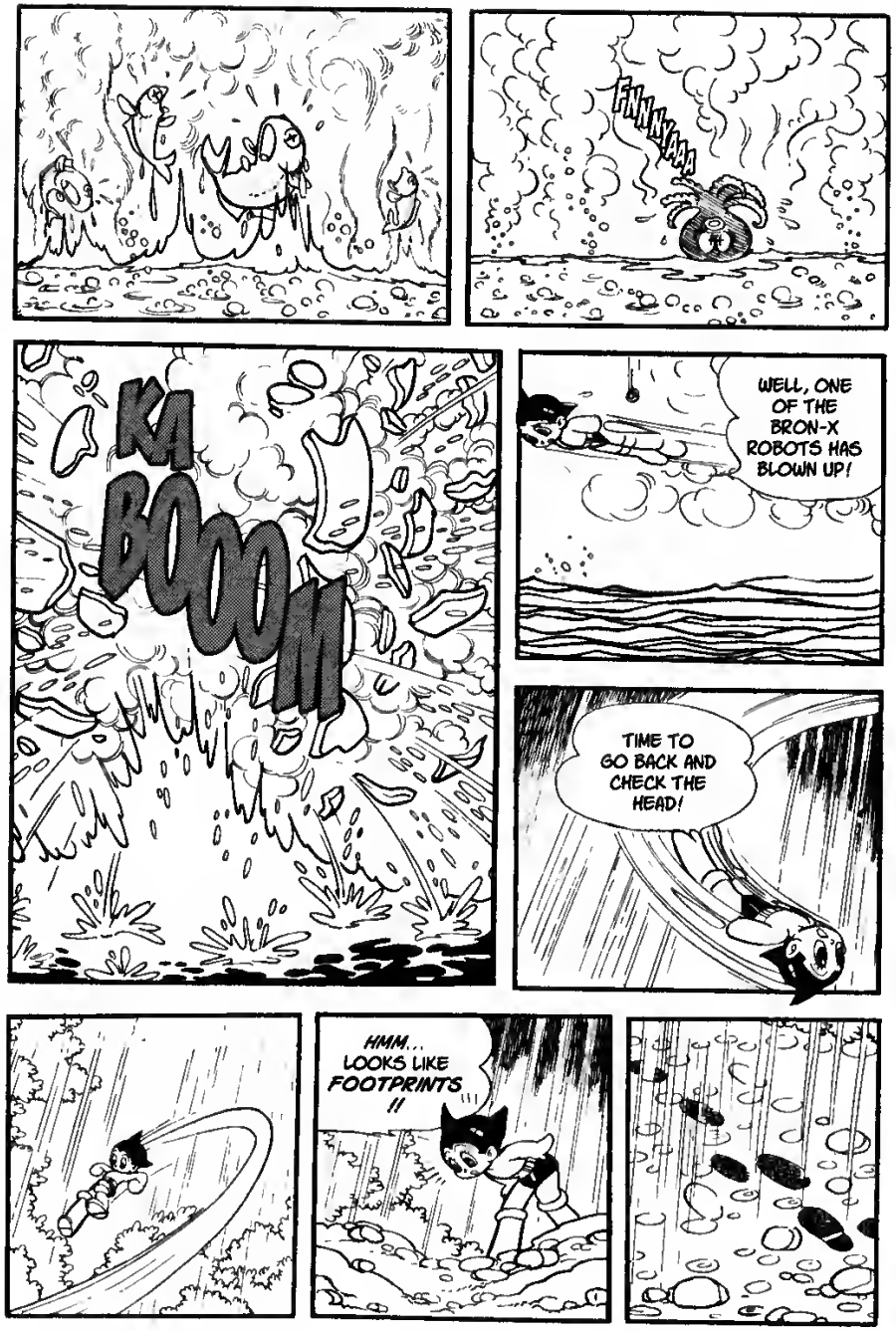
THERE IS A TINY ISLAND, KNOWN AS HORAGASHIMA, IN THE FAR SOUTHERN REACHES OF JAPAN. EVEN THOUGH IT IS SO ISOLATED THAT BIRDS RARELY VISIT, IT NONETHELESS HAS HUMAN INHABITANTS...
ROAR
ROAR
IF I BURY BRON-X'S HEAD HERE, NO ONE'LL EVER FIND IT...
SHOOSH
SPLASH
HMPH...
I GUESS I REALLY AM A BAD ROBOT NOW.... I'VE STOLEN SOMETHING, AND BURIED IT, TOO...
I BET THEY'RE REALLY UPSET BACK IN TOKYO...
...BUT I DID THIS FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANS...

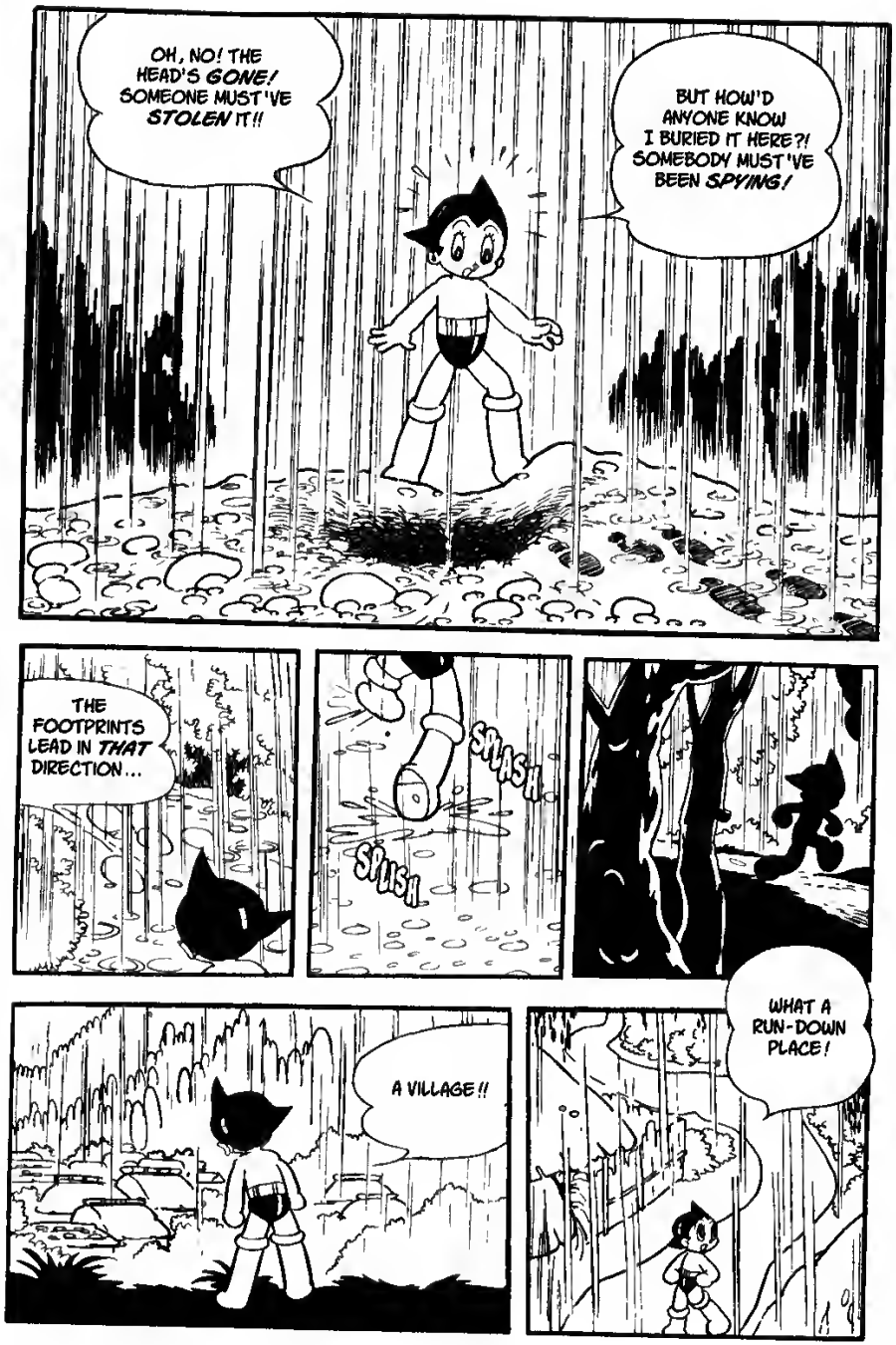
UH OH...
SCREEEE
SOMETHING'S FLYING THIS WAY...
SCREEE
UH OH! IT'S BRON-X'S BODY!!
CRACK
FRRRRP
CRASH
ZU ZU ZUZU ZUZU

I BET YOU'RE HERE FOR YOUR HEAD, BRON-X!
ZUAAAA!
WELL, JUST TRY'N GET IT FROM ME!!
HMM... I BET HE CAN'T MOVE NORMALLY WITHOUT HIS HEAD....
ROAAAAAA
WITHOUT A HEAD, THIS GUY'S NOT SCARY AT ALL...
KATHUD
UH OH... THE GRASS IS BURNING AROUND HIM!
I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE HUGE HEAT HE GIVES OFF!

KNOCK IT OFF, BRON-X! THE MORE YOU STRUGGLE, THE MORE THINGS'LL GO UP IN FLAMES!
MAYBE YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING I SAY 'CUZ YOU DON'T HAVE A HEAD...
WHOOPS!
CHAK
ARGH
...
HALP! STOP! YOU'RE GONNA MELT ME!
FSSSH
UNGH
...
FWP
TAKE THIS, BRON-X!
RATATATATAT


GAKKIII!
GAWA GA!
KERSPLOOSH
FSSSHH
FSSSSHH
FSSSSSHH


KA BOOM
WELL, ONE OF THE BRON-X ROBOTS HAS BLOWN UP!
TIME TO GO BACK AND CHECK THE HEAD!
HMM... LOOKS LIKE FOOTPRINTS !!

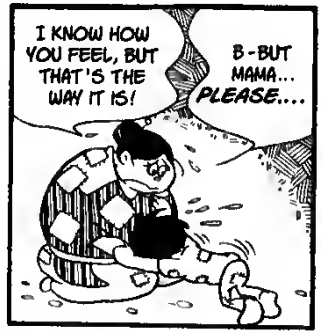

OH, NO! THE HEAD'S GONE! SOMEONE MUST'VE STOLEN IT!!
BUT HOW'D ANYONE KNOW I BURIED IT HERE?! SOMEBODY MUST'VE BEEN SPYING!
THE FOOTPRINTS LEAD IN THAT DIRECTION...
SPLASH
SPLASH
A VILLAGE !!
WHAT A RUN-DOWN PLACE!

WONDER IF ANYONE EVEN LIVES AROUND HERE...
NO WONDER IT'S SO DARK!
THEY DON'T HAVE ELEC-TRICITY HERE!
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THERE'S STILL PLACES LIKE THIS IN 21ST CENTURY JAPAN!
UH OH! IT'S A FIRE!
THAT'S ODD...
THERE'S A FAINT LIGHT COMING FROM THAT PLACE...
FWAP
FWAP
WEEEE!
SHOICHI!! WHAT'RE YOU DOING, BOY?!

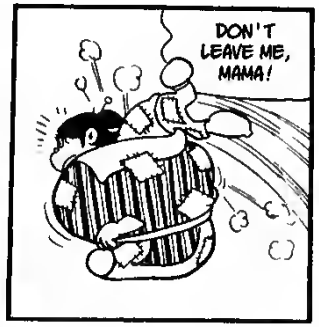
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU BEEN BURNING SUM'THING, BOY?
WELL, I'LL BE! YER CLOTHES'RE ALL CHARRED, BOY!
WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU, SON? WATCHER BEEN DOIN'?
TALK TO ME!
YOU TRYIN' TO THROW ME FOR A LOOP?!
MAMA DON'T LIKE BOYS WHO HIDE STUFF FROM HER, UNNERSTAN'?
WAIT, MOM! WAIT!
MOTIVATION TREATMENT
OKAY, SO SHOW ME...
HOKAY...
SCRABBLE
KOOMP
W-WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS, SHOICHI? W-WHERE'D YOU FIND THIS THING?!
IN THE CLEARING BY THE SEA...

OUR VILLAGE IS SO DARK AT NIGHT I CAN'T EVEN DO MY HOMEWORK, MAMA... SO I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD USE THIS TO READ BY, Y'KNOW...

NO, YOU GOTTA TAKE IT BACK, SHOICHI! RIGHT NOW, UNNERSTAN'?!

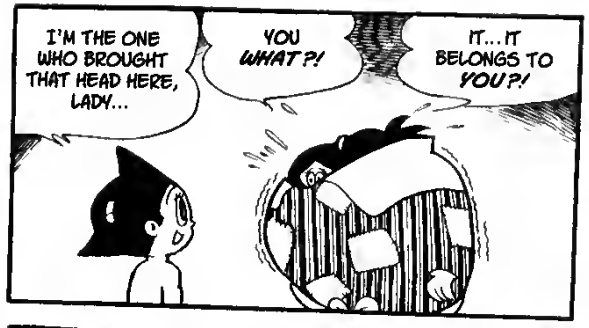

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT IS!
B-BUT MAMA... PLEASE....

WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'LL GO TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL 'N TELL 'EM WE'VE GOT A MONSTER HERE!
WAIT, MAMA! WAIT!

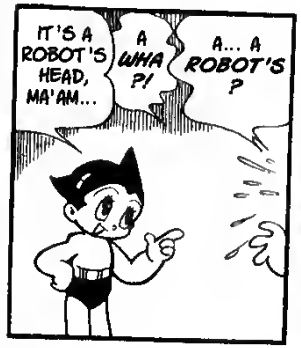

DON'T LEAVE ME, MAMA!

PLEASE, STOP!

THAT HEAD'S NOT REALLY A MONSTER, LADY...
'N WHO'RE YOU?

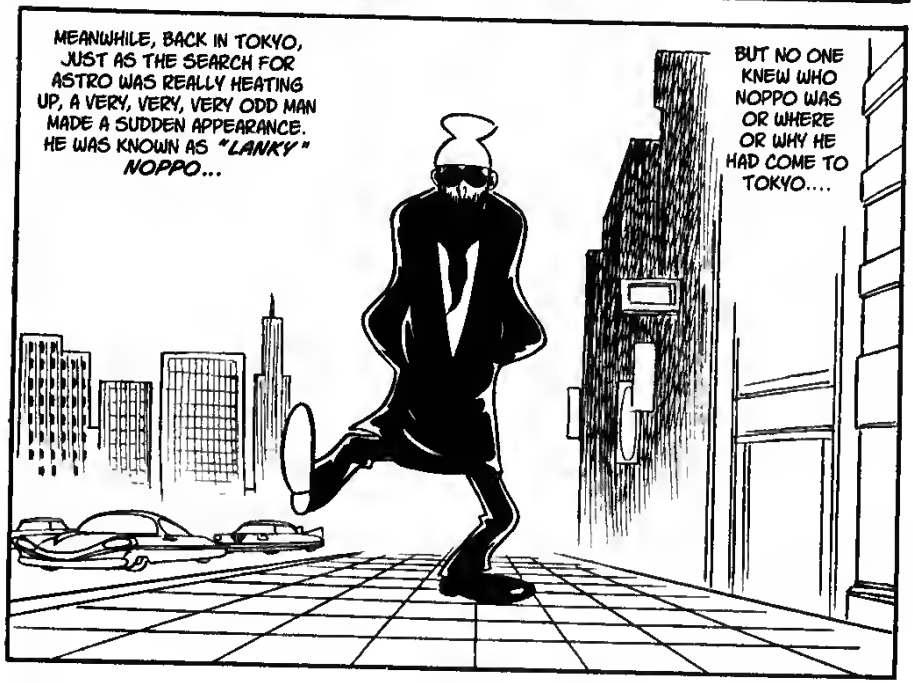

I'M THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THAT HEAD HERE, LADY...
YOU WHAT?!
IT... IT BELONGS TO YOU?!

I SLIPPED, MAMA!


IT'S A ROBOT'S HEAD, MA'AM...
A WHA?!
A... A ROBOT'S?

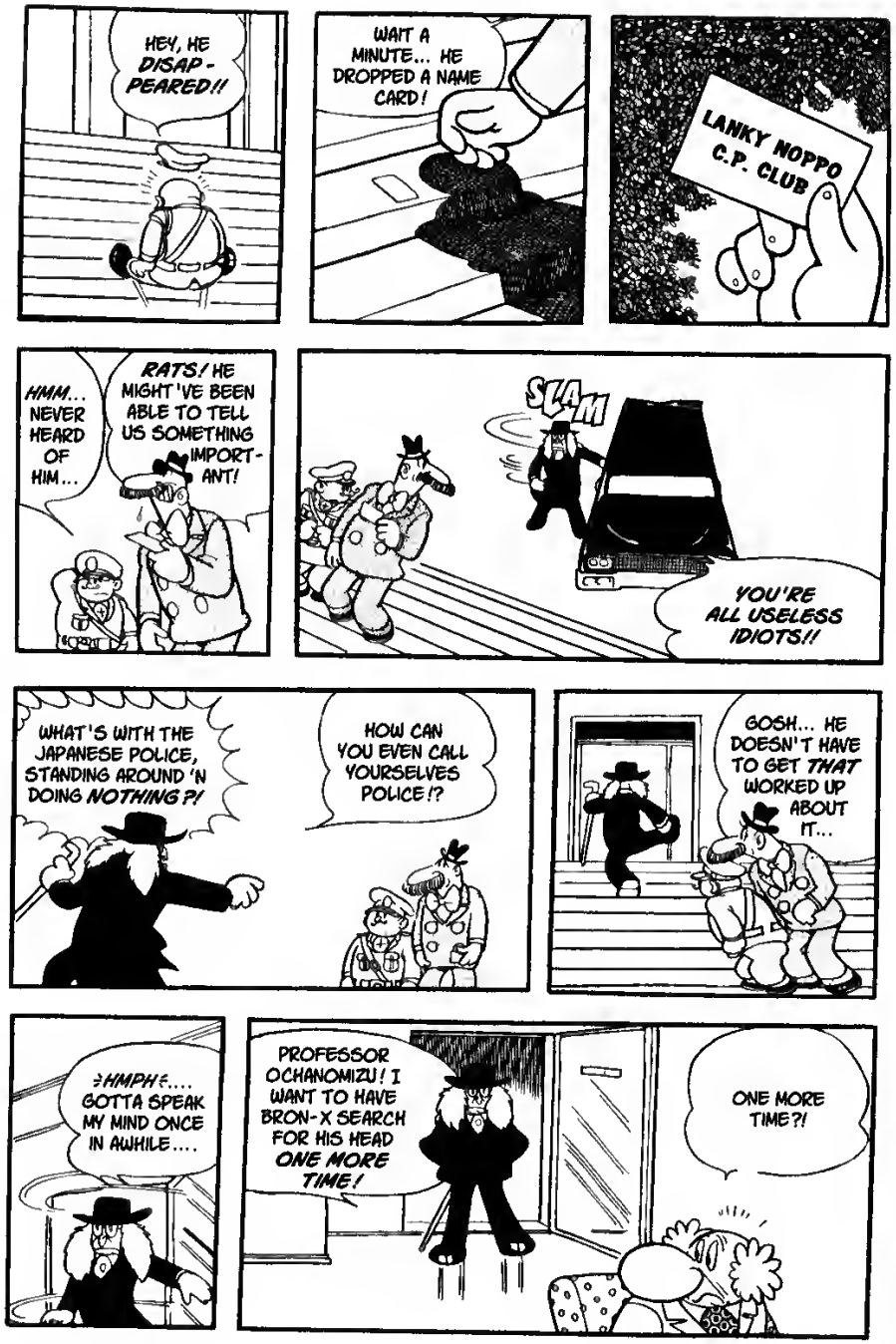
YES, 'N I'D LIKE TO GIVE IT TO YOUR BOY, SHOICHI...

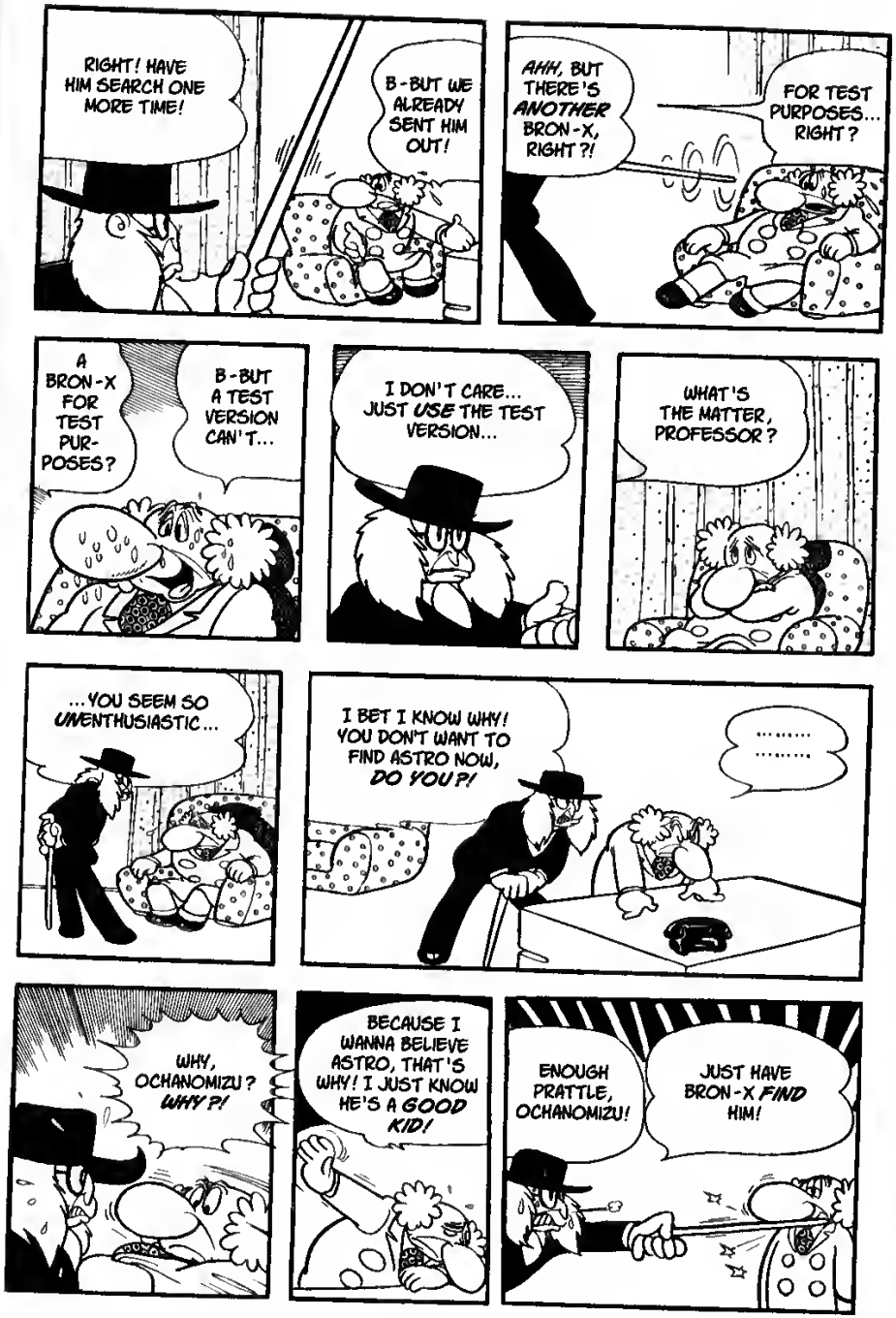
WAAHE! NOW I DON' WAN' IT, MAMA!!
HALP
HALP!

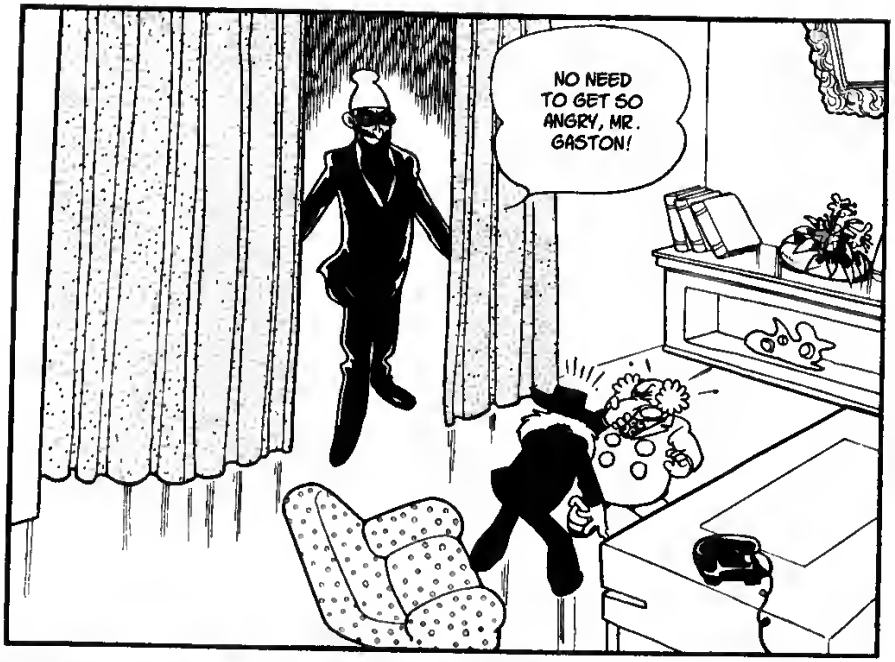

MEANWHILE, BACK IN TOKYO, JUST AS THE SEARCH FOR ASTRO WAS REALLY HEATING UP, A VERY, VERY, VERY ODD MAN MADE A SUDDEN APPEARANCE. HE WAS KNOWN AS "LANKY" NOPPO...
BUT NO ONE KNEW WHO NOPPO WAS OR WHERE OR WHY HE HAD COME TO TOKYO....

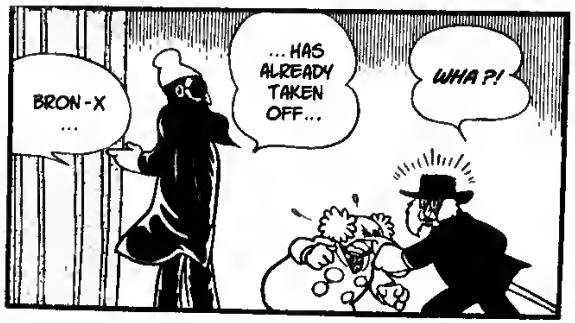
WOW! LOOK HOW TALL THAT GUY IS!
HE'S EVEN TALL FOR A FOREIGNER!
EXCUSE ME, SIR....
MIND BENDING DOWN? YER SO TALL I CAN HARDLY HEAR YOU!
'SCUSE ME... I FORGOT ABOUT MY HEIGHT...
I'M ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR A FOREIGNER NAMED GASTON....
HM... GASTON?
GASTON?
SORRY, BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION TO GO ON...
EGADS, WHAT AN INCONVENIENT PLACE JAPAN IS!
I NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING ELSE, LIKE WHERE HE WORKS OR HIS OCCUPATION...
WELL, HE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ROBOTS!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, MISTER, YOU SHOULD ASK AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, SIR....
GASTON...
GASTON...
IT'S BEEN A WHOLE MONTH...
...AND WE STILL DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE ASTRO IS!!
NOT ONLY THAT, NO ONE'S EVEN SPOTTED BRON-X, WHO'S BIG ENOUGH TO STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB....
IT IS STRANGE, I ADMIT...
S'CUSE ME... DID YOU SAY BRON-X?
YOW... WHO'RE YOU? DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
CAN YOU JUST TELL ME WHERE HE IS?
Y-YOU MEAN YOU KNOW BRON-X?!
NO, I JUST WANT TO MEET HIM!
AW... YER OF NO USE TO US, THEN!
B-BUT WAIT A MINUTE! HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM?!!


HEY, HE DISAP-PEARED!!
WAIT A MINUTE... HE DROPPED A NAME CARD!
LANKY NOPPO C.P. CLUB
HMM... NEVER HEARD OF HIM...
RATS! HE MIGHT'VE BEEN ABLE TO TELL US SOMETHING IMPORT-ANT!
SLAM
YOU'RE ALL USELESS IDIOTS!!
WHAT'S WITH THE JAPANESE POLICE, STANDING AROUND 'N DOING NOTHING?!
HOW CAN YOU EVEN CALL YOURSELVES POLICE!?
GOSH... HE DOESN'T HAVE TO GET THAT WORKED UP ABOUT IT...
HMPH... GOTTA SPEAK MY MIND ONCE IN AWHILE....
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU! I WANT TO HAVE BRON-X SEARCH FOR HIS HEAD ONE MORE TIME!
ONE MORE TIME?!


RIGHT! HAVE HIM SEARCH ONE MORE TIME!
B-BUT WE ALREADY SENT HIM OUT!
AHH, BUT THERE'S ANOTHER BRON-X, RIGHT?!
FOR TEST PURPOSES... RIGHT?
A BRON-X FOR TEST PUR-POSES?
B-BUT A TEST VERSION CAN'T...
I DON'T CARE... JUST USE THE TEST VERSION...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, PROFESSOR?
...YOU SEEM SO UNENTHUSIASTIC...
I BET I KNOW WHY! YOU DON'T WANT TO FIND ASTRO NOW, DO YOU?!
.....
.....
WHY, OCHANOMIZU? WHY?!
BECAUSE I WANNA BELIEVE ASTRO, THAT'S WHY! I JUST KNOW HE'S A GOOD KID!
ENOUGH PRATTLE, OCHANOMIZU!
JUST HAVE BRON-X FIND HIM!


NO NEED TO GET SO ANGRY, MR. GASTON!


BRON-X ...
... HAS ALREADY TAKEN OFF...
WHA?!

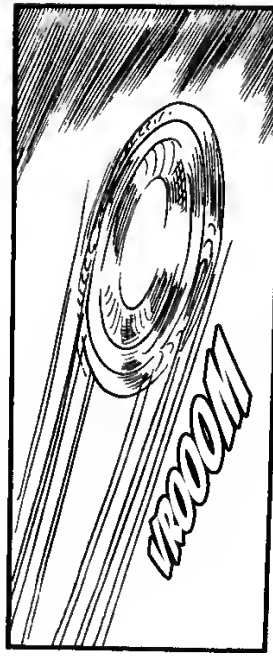
JUST AS YOU WISHED, HE HAS TAKEN OFF TO SEARCH FOR THE HEAD....

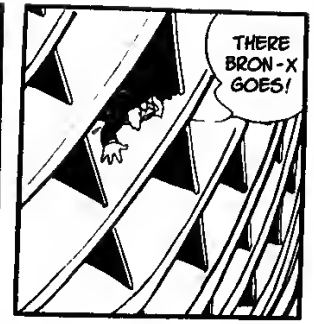
B-B-BUT WHO LET HIM?!

HA HA HA HA
WHY, ME, OF COURSE!
WHAT?!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

THAT SCOUNDREL WASN'T KIDDING!


VROOOM!


THERE BRON-X GOES!

WELL? ARE YOU CONVINCED?

YES... B-BUT WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!

ME? AH, I AM LANKY NOPPO, OF THE C.P. CLUB....
LANKY NOPPO?!

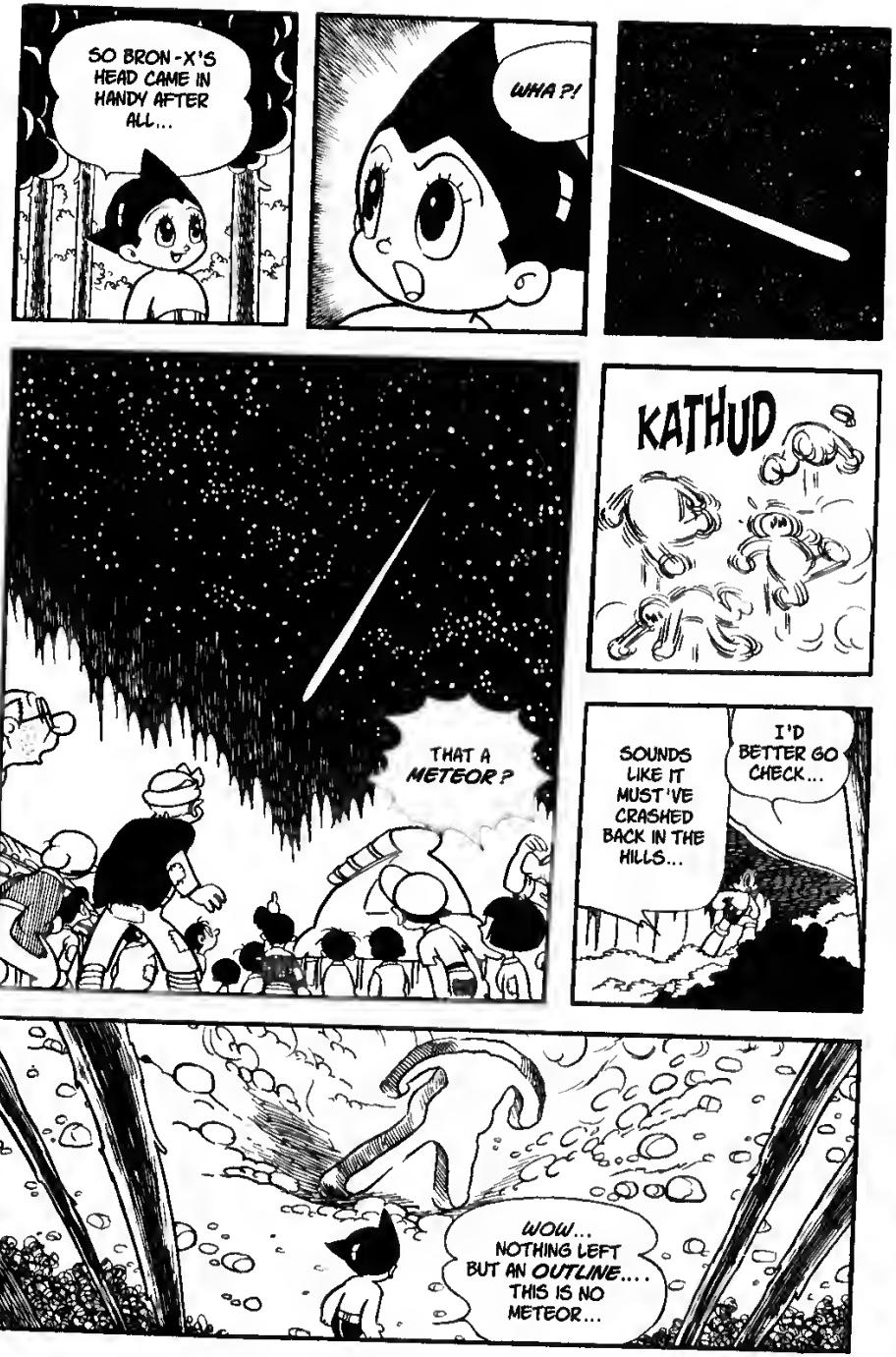
YES... AND PLEASE EXCUSE ME...

NO NEED TO BE SO SURPRISED, MR. GASTON!

JUST IGNORE ME...

HAALP! HE'S A MONSTER!

WOW! LOOK HOW BRIGHT IT IS!
IT'S A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!
JUST KEEPS ON GLOWING!
FLARE
I'M THE VILLAGE ELDER HERE, SONNY, 'N I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH...
WE'VE PETITIONED THE GOVERNMENT OVER 'N OVER AGAIN, BUT THEY NEVER BRING ELECTRICITY TO OUR ISLAND!
I'M THE LOCAL TEACHER HERE... TAKE A LOOK AT MY STUDENTS!
THANK YOU, ASTRO-SAN!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
TANK YA!
WE LOVE ASTRO BOY!!
HOKAY, EV'RYBODY! FOR ALL THIS LIGHT THAT'S BEEN BROUGHT TO OUR DOWN-'N-OUT VILLAGE...
WE HAVE ONLY ONE PERSON TO THANK, 'N THAT'S ASTRO BOY HERE!
GOSH, FOLKS... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
GEE, THAT SURE WORKED OUT WELL...
THEY REALLY APPRE-CIATED IT...

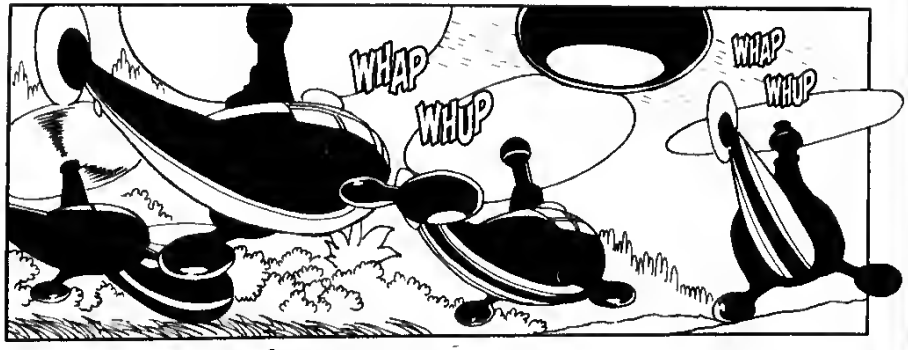

SO BRON-X'S HEAD CAME IN HANDY AFTER ALL...
WHA?!
KATHUD
THAT A METEOR?
SOUNDS LIKE IT MUST'VE CRASHED BACK IN THE HILLS...
I'D BETTER GO CHECK...
WOW... NOTHING LEFT BUT AN OUTLINE.... THIS IS NO METEOR...

WHATEVER IT IS, IT LEFT A HOLE IN THE GROUND IN THE SHAPE OF A HUMAN...
UH OH... I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING!
HEY, SHOICHI! SOMETHING STRANGE LANDED BEHIND THE VILLAGE! LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT!
I...I'LL JOIN YOU LATER...
FSSSSH
RUSTLE
HEY, WHO'S THERE?
YIKES....

HAAALP!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE SHOICHI!!
WHAT HAPPENED, SHOICHI! HANG IN THERE, SON!
WHA?! THE HEAD'S GONE!!
I FORGOT ABOUT THE OTHER LITTLE TEST BODY MADE FOR BRON-X!
SO, WE MEET AGAIN, ASTRO...
GWA HA HA HA! IT'S ME! AND I'M DIRECTLY ADDRESSING YOUR MIND!!
FLARE
OH MY GOSH... H-HE PUT THE 'HEAD ON!!
RIGHT... AND NO ONE CAN STOP ME NOW!!

THIS'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF MY POWER, ASTRO!
FLASH
KABOSH
WHY, YOU...
ZAP ZAP ZAP
NEXT TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!
YIKES!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, BRON-X! I WON'T LET YOU! YOU'RE A THREAT TO ALL MANKIND!
SLAM

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
UH OH... IT'S THE AIR PATROL! NOW I'M REALLY IN TROUBLE!
ASTRO! THIS IS INSPECTOR TAWASHI! WE'VE FINALLY LOCATED YOU! THERE'S NO ESCAPE THIS TIME!
WE'VE NO CHOICE! WE'VE GOTTA TAKE YOU IN, ASTRO! MAKE IT EASIER FOR ALL OF US, AND JUST SURRENDER!
I WILL, INSPECTOR NAKAMURA! BUT YOU'VE GOTTA LET ME FINISH OFF BRON-X! PLEASE!
ENOUGH NONSENSE, ASTRO! JUST PUT YOUR HANDS UP!
...YESSIR....


WHAP
WHUP
WHAP
WHUP

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, ASTRO...
...FOR STEALING BRON-X'S HEAD!

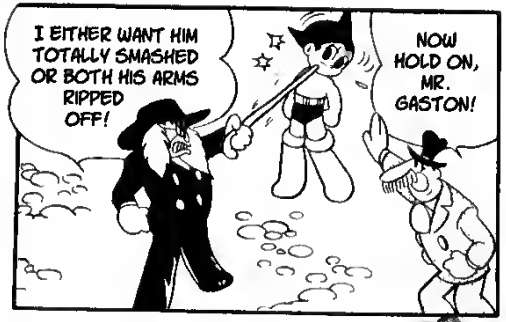
YESSIR...

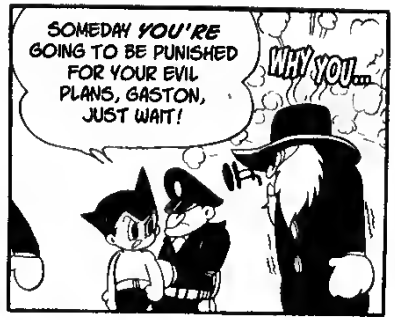
WE HAVE TO TAKE YOU IN... YOU UNDERSTAND?
YESSIR...

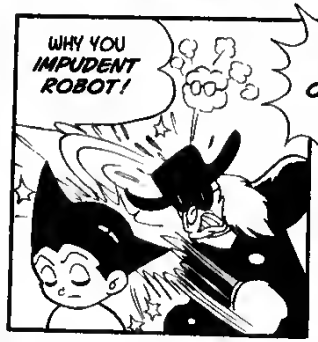
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE SUCH A GOOD KID, ASTRO! WHY'D YOU HAVE TO DO THIS?

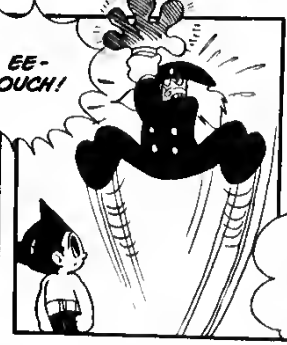
GOOD WORK, INSPECTORS! I WANT HIM PUNISHED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW!
AH, MR. GASTON!

AS LONG AS THIS ROBOT'S AROUND, THERE'LL BE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
WHAP

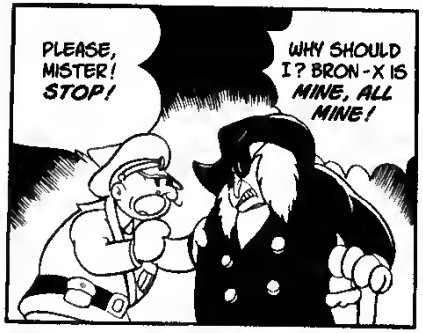

I EITHER WANT HIM TOTALLY SMASHED OR BOTH HIS ARMS RIPPED OFF!
NOW HOLD ON, MR. GASTON!


SOMEDAY YOU'RE GOING TO BE PUNISHED FOR YOUR EVIL PLANS, GASTON, JUST WAIT!
WHY YOU...

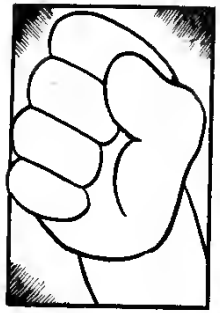

WHY YOU IMPUDENT ROBOT!

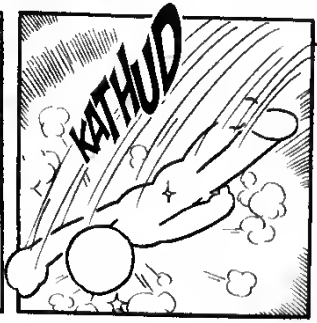

EE-OUCH!

OKAY, BRON-X! YOU WHUP HIM ONE!


PLEASE, MISTER! STOP!
WHY SHOULD I? BRON-X IS MINE, ALL MINE!

GO AHEAD, BRON-X! GIVE IT TO HIM!



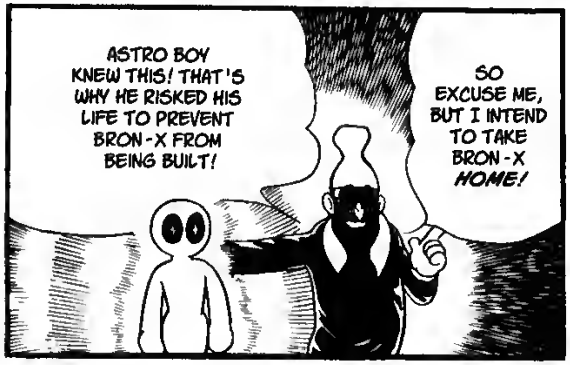

KATHUD

WHAT THE--?
EGADS!

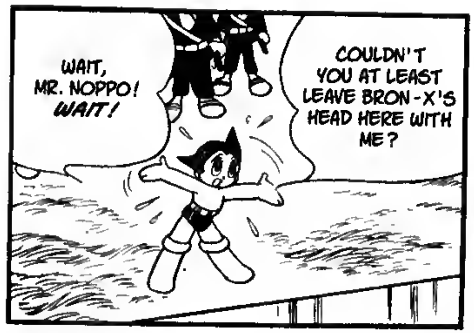
WH-WHAT'S THAT BEHIND US?!
IT'S A ROCKET SHIP!
WHAAAAAAAAAH
WHAT COUNTRY'S IT FROM?
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE, BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?
I AM LANKY NOPPO, OF THE C.P. CLUB, AND BRON-X BELONGS TO ME AND ME ONLY!
APOLOGIES FOR THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE...
HEY! YOU'RE THE WEIRDO WE SAW BEFORE!
INDEED I AM! AND I'VE COME TO RETRIEVE BRON-X!

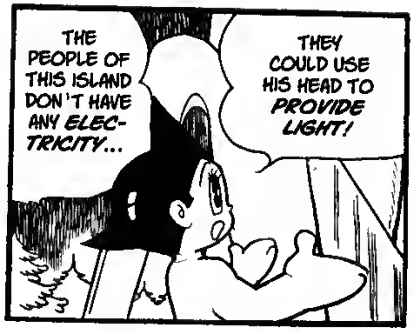
B-BUT HE BE-LONGS TO ME!
HE'S MINE! ALL MINE! AND YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM!
NO! BRON... BRON... COME TO ME!
PYOKON
BRON-X! STOP!
GOOD BOY! COME TO PAPA!
OPEN FIRE, MEN!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
STOP, GENTLEMEN! YOU'RE JUST WASTING YOUR BULLETS!
FIRST, LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!
THE C.P. CLUB IS A UNION OF ALIENS!

LONG AGO, ONE OF OUR SPACE SHIPS CRASHED HERE ON EARTH, AND THE BLUEPRINTS FOR ONE OF OUR ROBOTS FELL INTO HUMAN HANDS...
THAT ROBOT WAS BRON-X HERE! HE WAS NOT DESIGNED FOR EARTHLINGS, AND HE HAS POWERS BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION. IF COMPLETED BY HUMANS, TERRIBLE THINGS COULD HAPPEN!


ASTRO BOY KNEW THIS! THAT'S WHY HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO PREVENT BRON-X FROM BEING BUILT!
SO EXCUSE ME, BUT I INTEND TO TAKE BRON-X HOME!

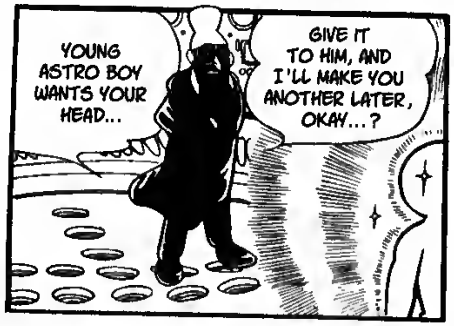
YOU MUST NOT PUNISH ASTRO BOY, EARTHLINGS! HE HAS ACTED CORRECTLY IN ALL OF THIS!

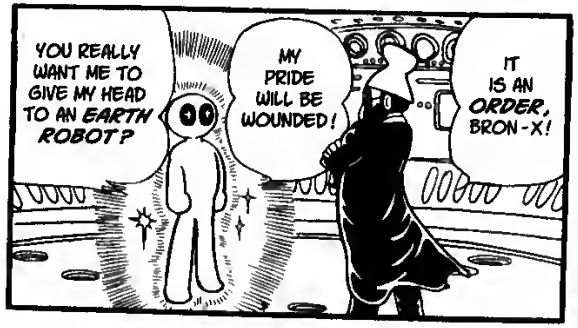

WAIT, MR. NOPPO! WAIT!
COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST LEAVE BRON-X'S HEAD HERE WITH ME?

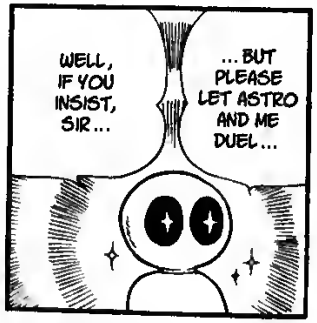

THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND DON'T HAVE ANY ELECTRICITY...
THEY COULD USE HIS HEAD TO PROVIDE LIGHT!

WHAT'S THIS? YOU WANT HIS HEAD?!

BRON-X!
BUUUNN


YOUNG ASTRO BOY WANTS YOUR HEAD...
GIVE IT TO HIM, AND I'LL MAKE YOU ANOTHER LATER, OKAY...?

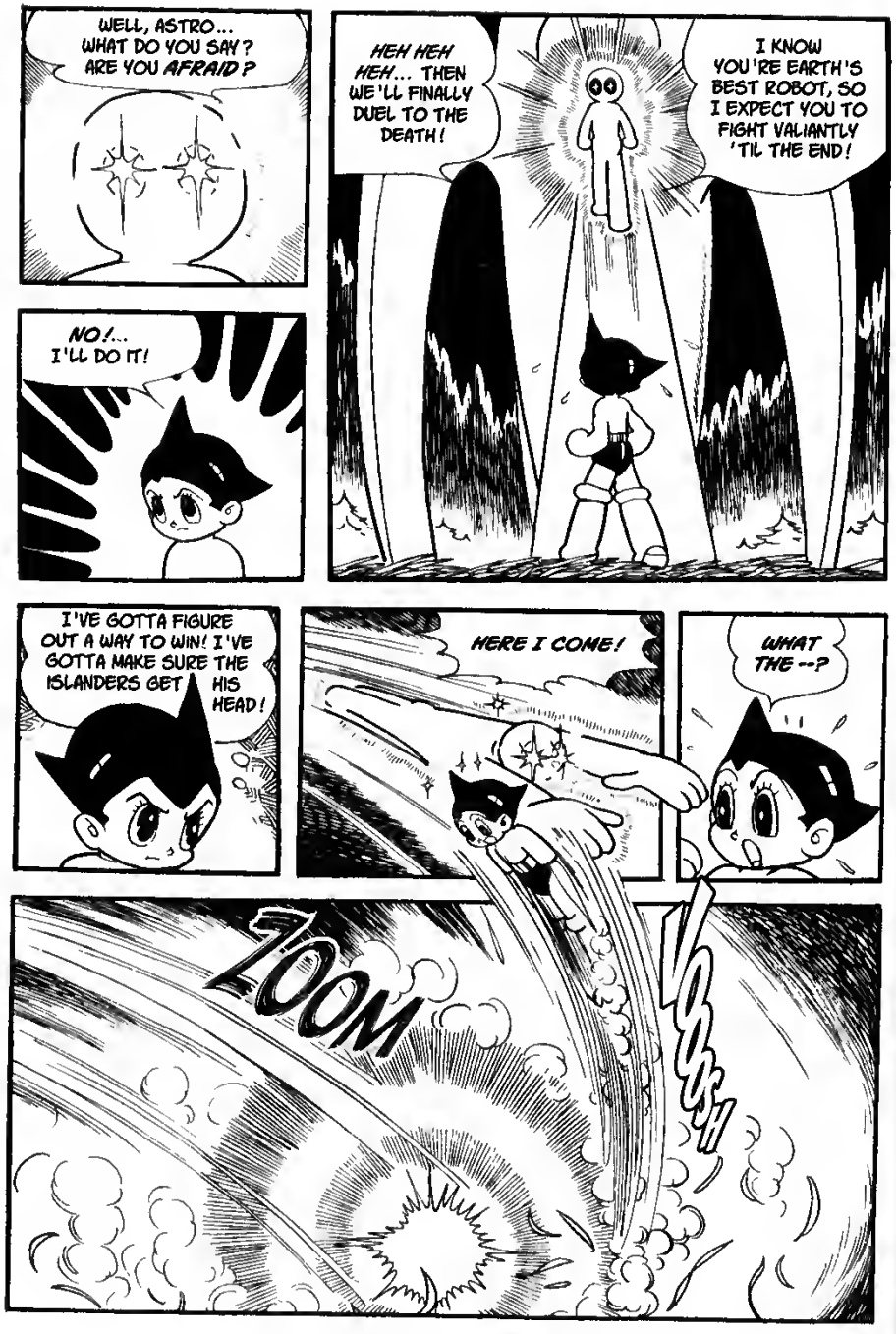

YOU REALLY WANT ME TO GIVE MY HEAD TO AN EARTH ROBOT?
MY PRIDE WILL BE WOUNDED!
IT IS AN ORDER, BRON-X!


WELL, IF YOU INSIST, SIR...
...BUT PLEASE LET ASTRO AND ME DUEL...

THEN, IF ASTRO WINS, I SHALL GLADLY GIVE HIM MY HEAD!

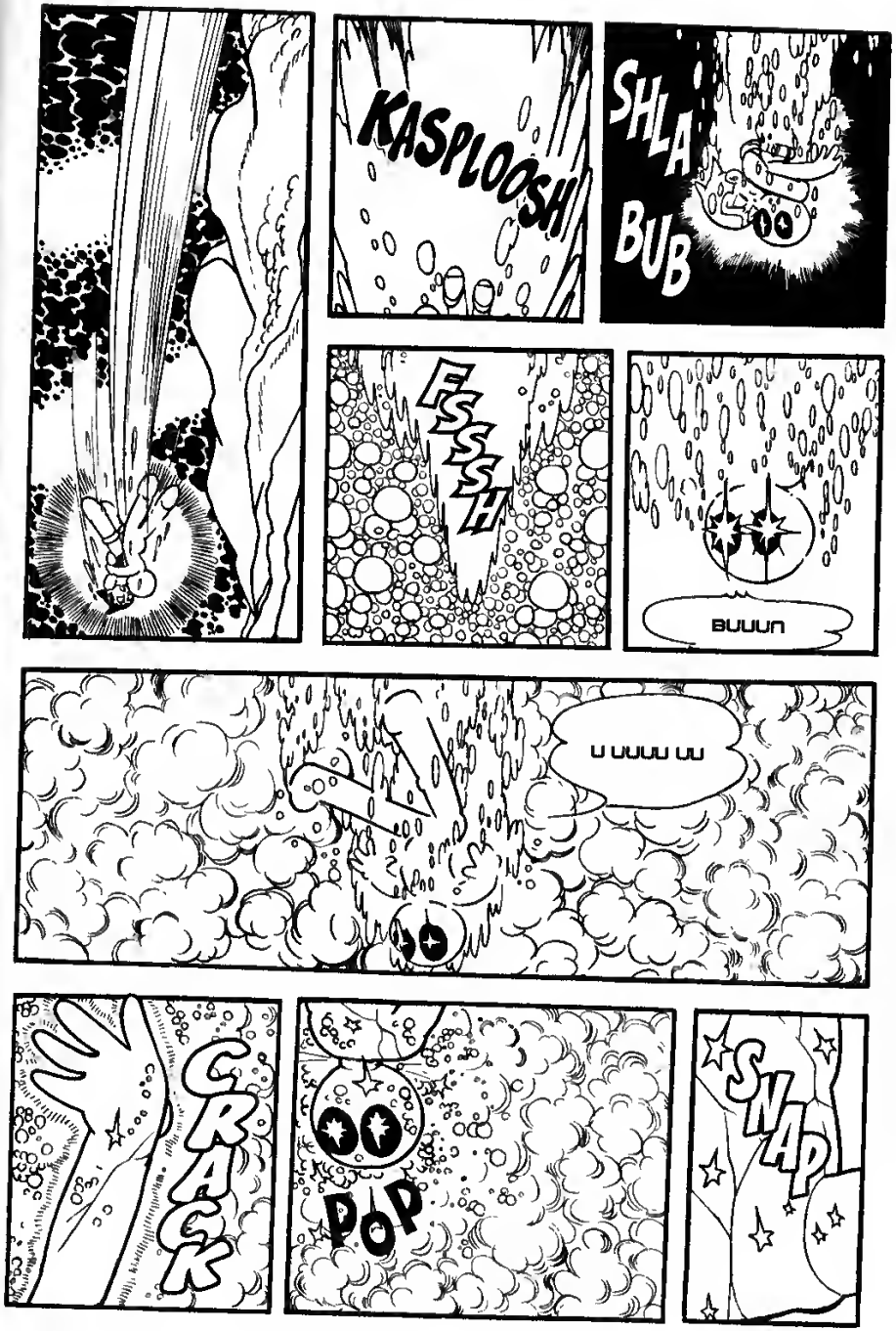
WELL, ASTRO... WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?

WHOEVER WINS GETS THE OTHER'S HEAD... HOW ABOUT IT?

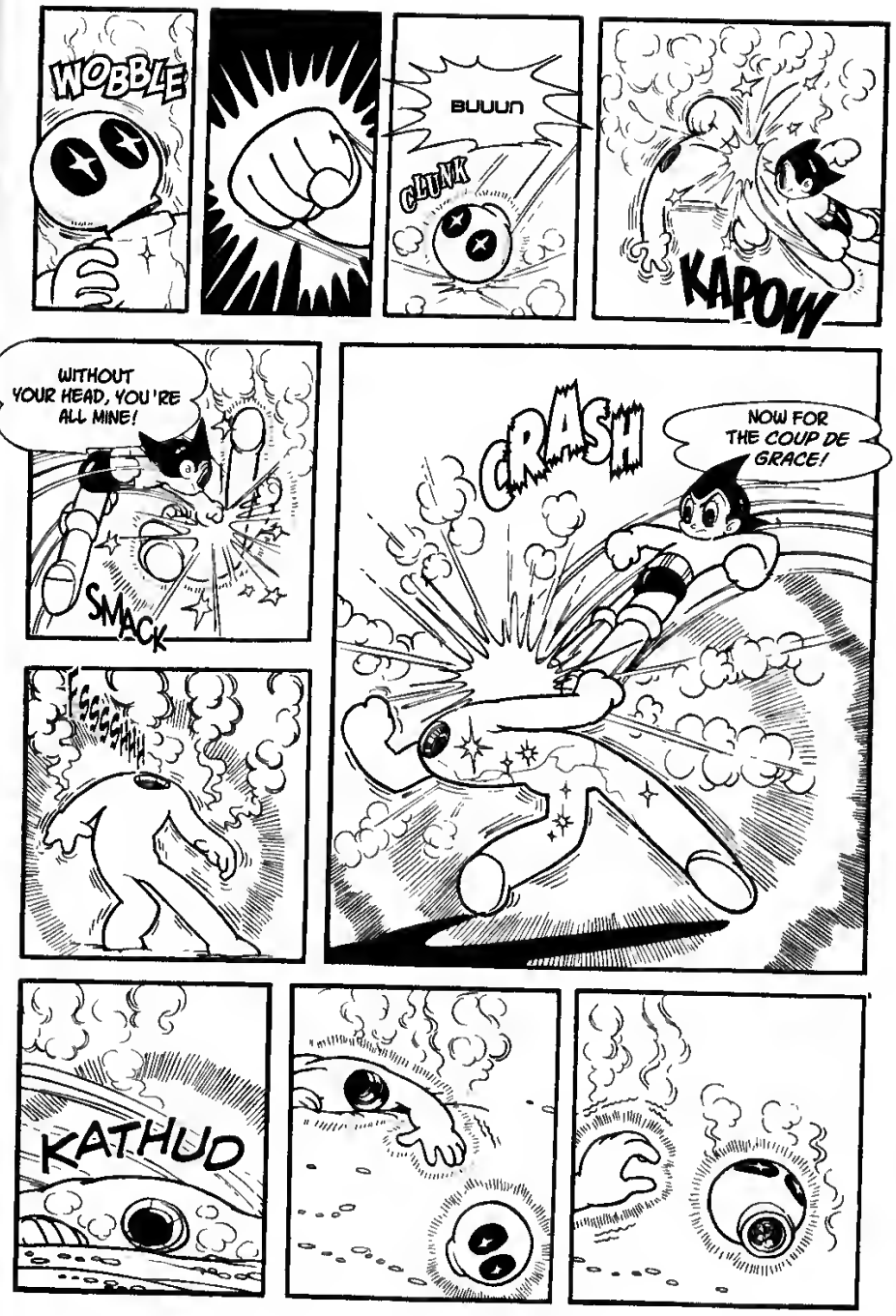

WELL, ASTRO... WHAT DO YOU SAY? ARE YOU AFRAID?
HEH HEH HEH... THEN WE'LL FINALLY DUEL TO THE DEATH!
I KNOW YOU'RE EARTH'S BEST ROBOT, SO I EXPECT YOU TO FIGHT VALIANTLY 'TIL THE END!
NO!... I'LL DO IT!
I'VE GOTTA FIGURE OUT A WAY TO WIN! I'VE GOTTA MAKE SURE THE ISLANDERS GET HIS HEAD!
HERE I COME!
WHAT THE --?
ZOOM
VOOSH

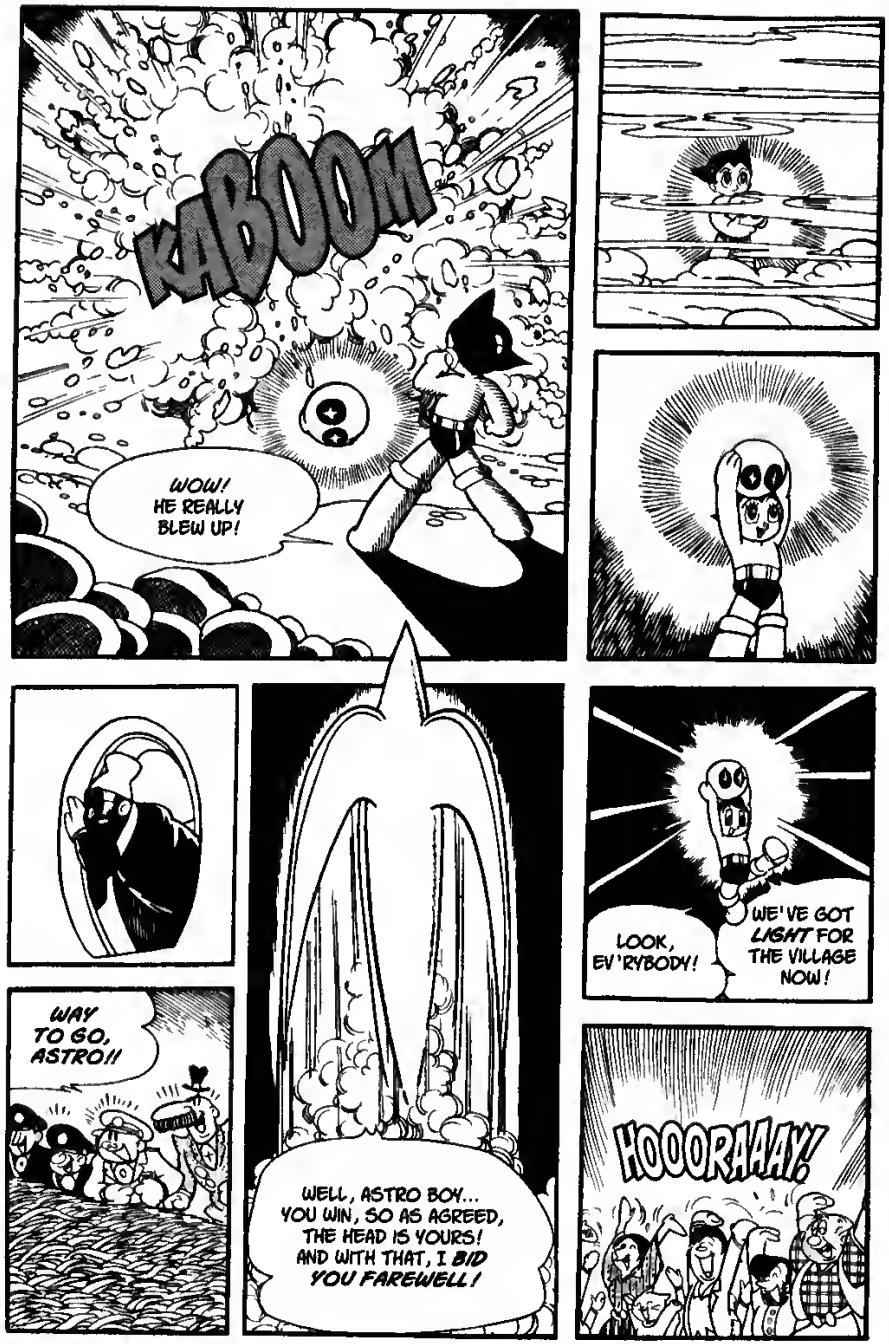
VROOOM
TAKE TO THE SKY, WILL YOU?! YOU COWARD!
OH MY GOSH... LOOK AT THEM!
I'M NOT TRYING TO ESCAPE, BRON-X! THIS IS PART OF MY STRATEGY!
VVROOOOM
I KNOW YOU'D WIN IN A FRONTAL ASSAULT!
STOP! LET ME GET MY HANDS ON YOU!

SLAM
VROOOM
SCREEE
NOW I'M REALLY MAD!
I LIKE THAT! KEEP GETTING MAD!!
LET'S HAVE IT OUT IN THIS CLEARING!
SIMPLY CHANGING PLACES WON'T PROTECT YOU FROM MY POWERS, ASTRO BOY!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU, BRON-X!
TAKE THIS!
SMASH

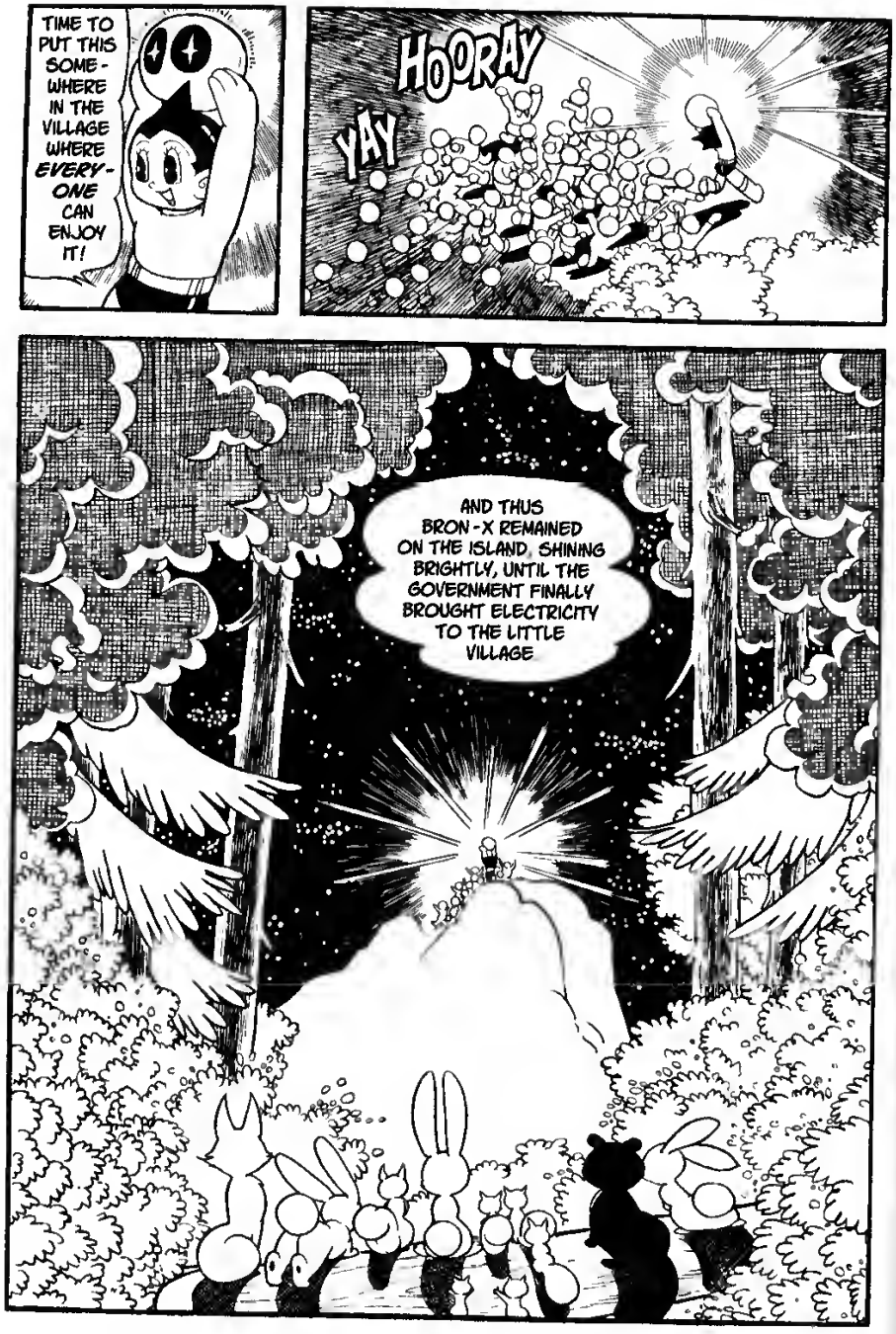

KASPLOOSH!
SHLA BUB
FSSSH
BUUUN
CRACK
POP
SNAP

SHU
SHU
IT'S WORKING! AFTER DIVING INTO THE COLD SEA WATER, HIS WHITE-HOT BODY'S STARING TO CRACK, AND WATER'S POURING IN!
VREEE
FSSSH
HOW D'YOU FEEL NOW, BRON-X? A LITTLE OFF?
THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO BRAG SO MUCH!
NOW FOR A HEAD SMASH!


WOBBLE
BUUUN
CLUNK
KAPOW
WITHOUT YOUR HEAD, YOU'RE ALL MINE!
SMACK
CRASH
NOW FOR THE COUP DE GRACE!
KATHUD

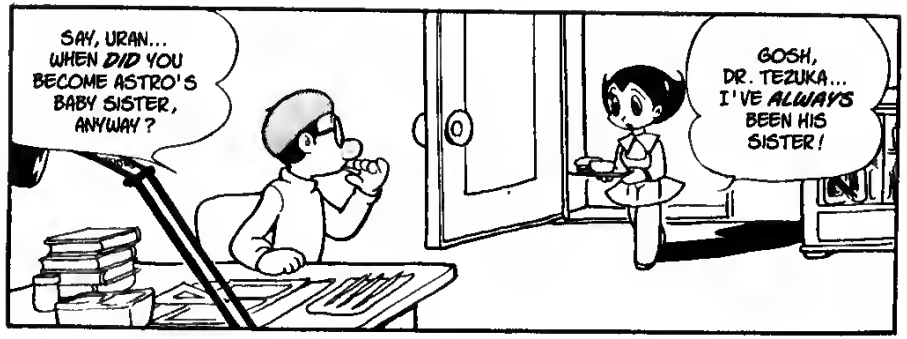

KABOOM
WOW! HE REALLY BLEW UP!
WELL, ASTRO BOY... YOU WIN, SO AS AGREED, THE HEAD IS YOURS! AND WITH THAT, I BID YOU FAREWELL!
WAY TO GO, ASTRO!!
LOOK, EV'RYBODY!
WE'VE GOT LIGHT FOR THE VILLAGE NOW!
HOOORAAAY!

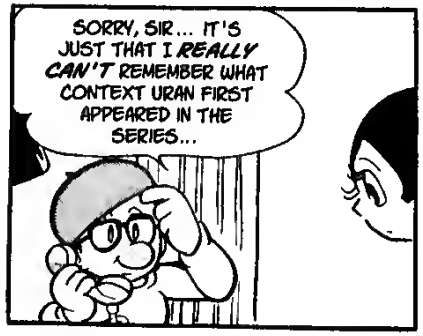
SHOICHI, BABY! EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW!
LOOK AT THE HEAD ASTRO BOY BROUGHT US!
IT BELONGS TO OUR ISLAND NOW!
REALLY, MAMA? YOU MEAN IT WON'T RUN AWAY OR SCARE US ANYMORE!?
YAY FOR ASTRO BOY!
GIVE ME THAT THING, LITTLE ROBOT!
NEVER!
WHY YOU...
KNOCK IT OFF, GASTON! YOU'RE WAY OUT OF LINE!
INSPECTOR TAWASHI! THIS GUY WAS PLANNING TO USE BRON-X TO DO SOMETHING REALLY BAD! I KNOW IT!
GAME'S UP, GASTON... I'M TAKING YOU IN!
SOMETHING 'BOUT YOU ALWAYS DID BUG ME, GASTON...

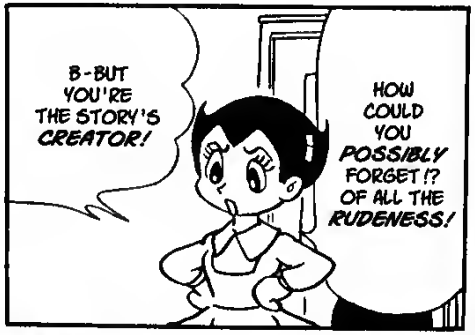

TIME TO PUT THIS SOME-WHERE IN THE VILLAGE WHERE EVERY-ONE CAN ENJOY IT!
HOORAY
YAY
AND THUS BRON-X REMAINED ON THE ISLAND, SHINING BRIGHTLY, UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT FINALLY BROUGHT ELECTRICITY TO THE LITTLE VILLAGE

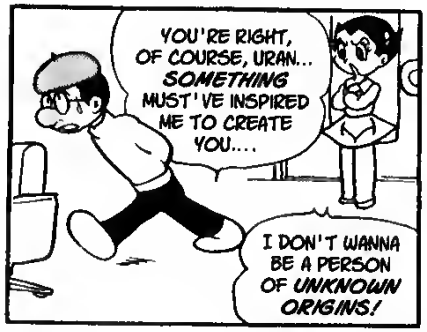
URAN

First serialized from August to September 1960 in *Shonen* magazine.


SAY, URAN... WHEN *DID* YOU BECOME ASTRO'S BABY SISTER, ANYWAY?
GOSH, DR. TEZUKA... I'VE *ALWAYS* BEEN HIS SISTER!

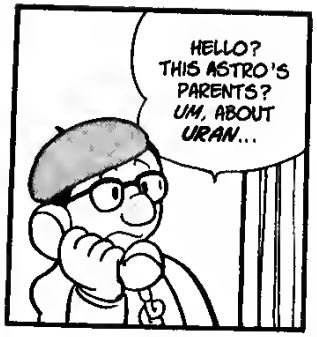

SORRY, SIR... IT'S JUST THAT I *REALLY CAN'T* REMEMBER WHAT CONTEXT URAN FIRST APPEARED IN THE SERIES...

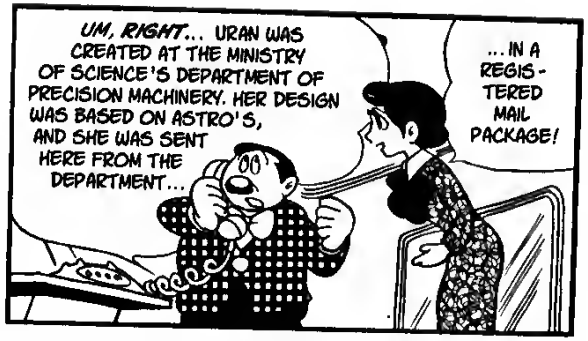

B-BUT YOU'RE THE STORY'S *CREATOR!*
HOW COULD YOU *POSSIBLY* FORGET!? OF ALL THE *RUDENESS!*

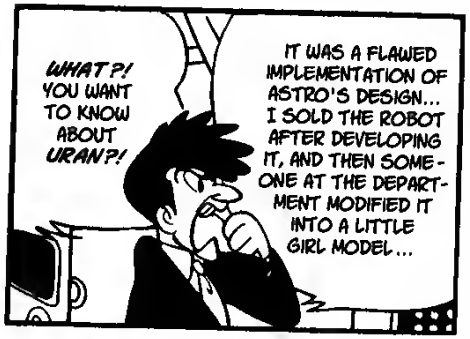

YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE, URAN... *SOMETHING* MUST'VE INSPIRED ME TO CREATE YOU....
I DON'T WANNA BE A PERSON OF *UNKNOWN ORIGINS!*

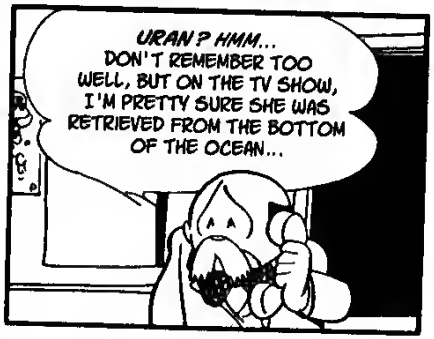
URAN? SURE, DR. TEZUKA... I GAVE HER TO ASTRO AS A REWARD IN THE LAST SCENE OF "THE INVISIBLE GIANT"...

HELLO? PROFESSOR? *UM*, YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT URAN'S ORIGINS?


HELLO? THIS ASTRO'S PARENTS? *UM*, ABOUT *URAN*...

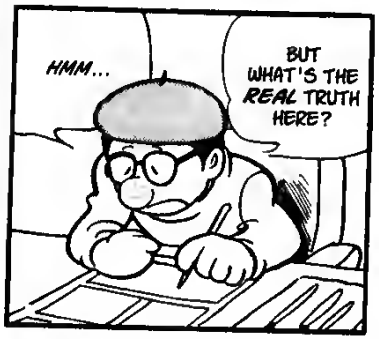

UM, RIGHT... URAN WAS CREATED AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE'S DEPARTMENT OF PRECISION MACHINERY. HER DESIGN WAS BASED ON ASTRO'S, AND SHE WAS SENT HERE FROM THE DEPARTMENT...
...IN A REGISTERED MAIL PACKAGE!


WHAT?! YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT URAN?!
IT WAS A FLAWED IMPLEMENTATION OF ASTRO'S DESIGN... I SOLD THE ROBOT AFTER DEVELOPING IT, AND THEN SOMEONE AT THE DEPARTMENT MODIFIED IT INTO A LITTLE GIRL MODEL...

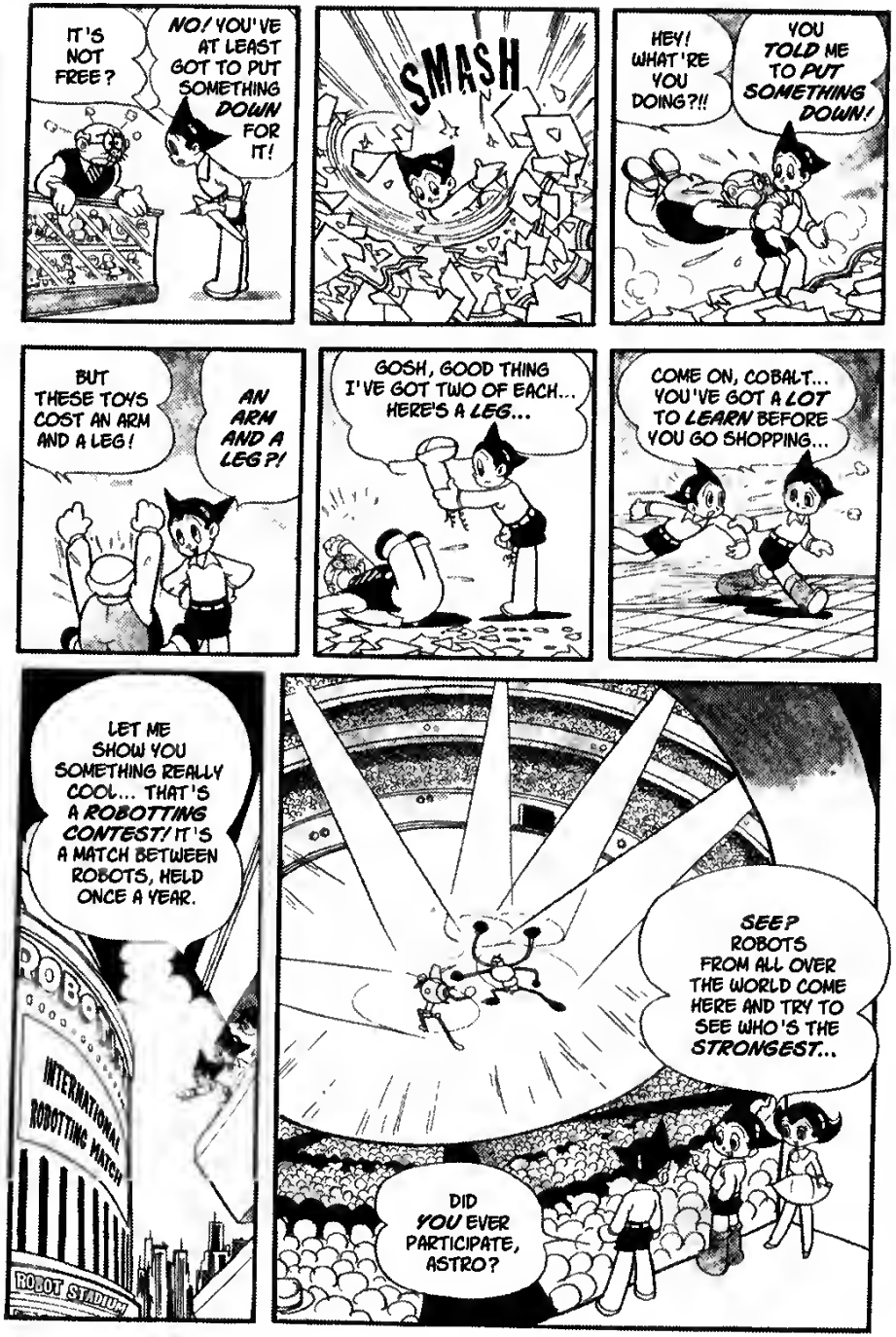

URAN? HMM... DON'T REMEMBER TOO WELL, BUT ON THE TV SHOW, I'M PRETTY SURE SHE WAS RETRIEVED FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN...

NAW, IT WASN'T THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN, IT WAS FROM THE TRASH DUMP!

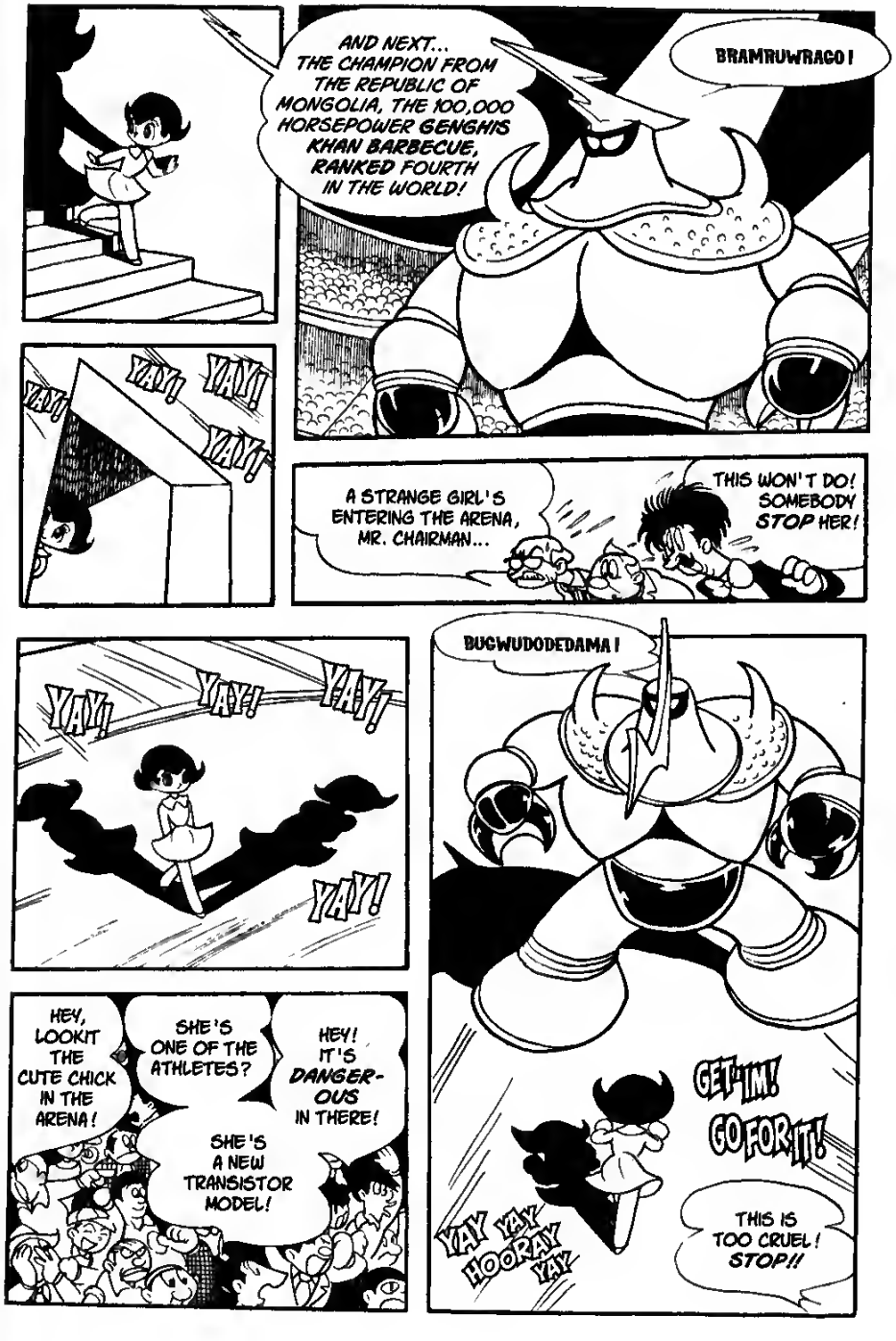
HEY! WHAT'S GOING?! IF YOU DON'T TREAT ME WITH A LITTLE MORE *RESPECT*, I'M GONNA THROW A *FIT!!*

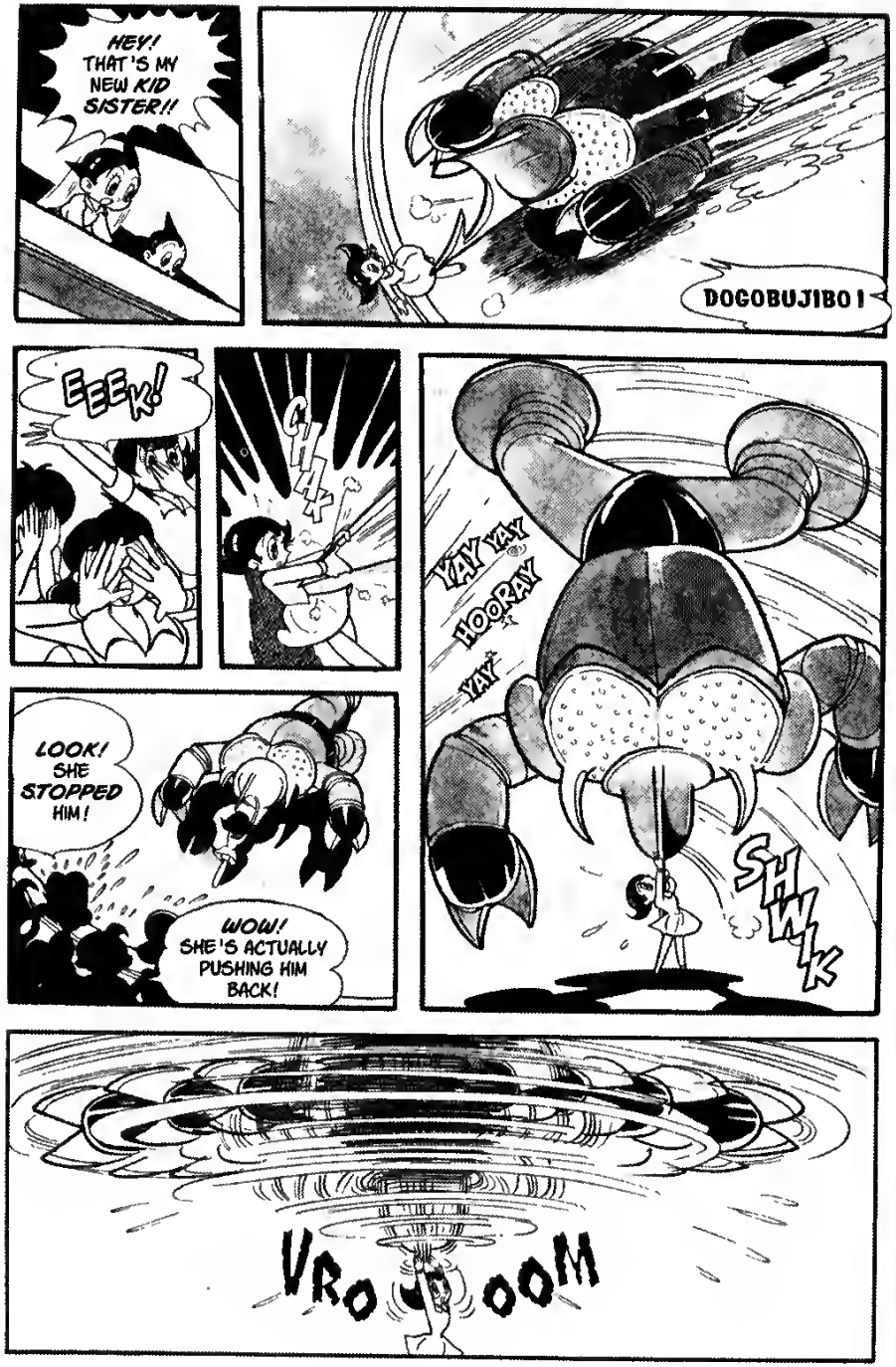

HMM...
BUT WHAT'S THE *REAL* TRUTH HERE?

SO HOW'S ASTRO GETTING ALONG WITH THE BROTHER 'N SISTER WE MADE FOR HIM?
WELL, HE'S SHOWING THEM AROUND TOKYO NOW...
...ACTING LIKE A GOOD BROTHER SHOULD!
THIS IS THE PRECISION MACHINERY FACTORY, WHERE THEY MAKE ROBOTS...
B...BUT WHERE DO THEY MAKE THE HUMANS?
WHAT?
HA HA! ACTUALLY, HUMANS COME FROM INSIDE THEIR MOTHER'S TUMMIES, COBALT...
GEE, I DON'T GET IT...
DON'T WORRY, COBALT...
...IT'LL ALL MAKE SENSE SOME DAY.
THIS IS AN ATOMIC REACTOR...
WHERE ARE WE? SURE IS BUSY...
WE'RE DOWNTOWN, COBALT... THERE'S LOTS OF STORES HERE...
WOW... THIS IS NEAT...
MAYBE I'LL TAKE THIS...
HEY! YOU GOTTA PAY FOR THAT STUFF, SONNY!!

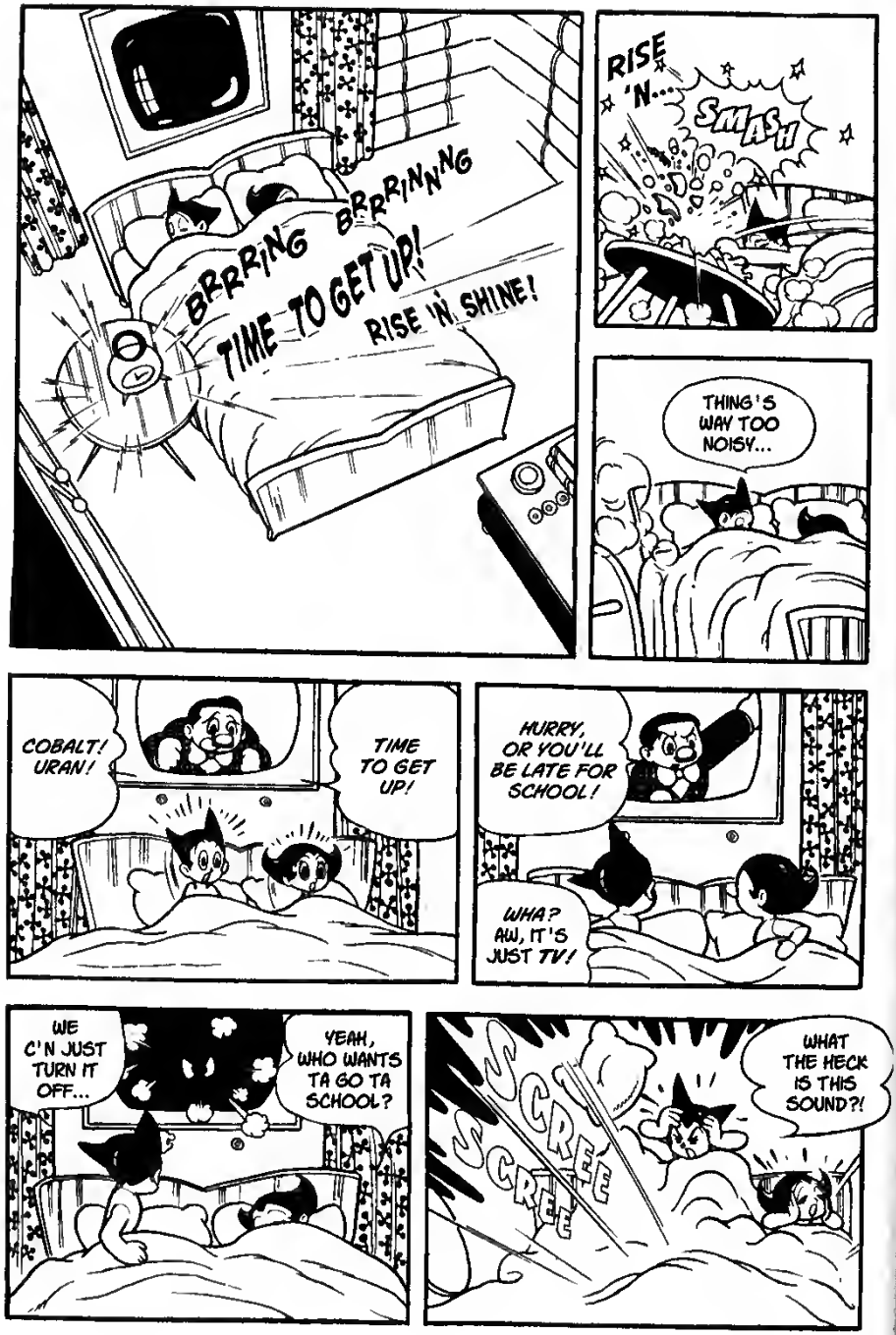

IT'S NOT FREE?
NO! YOU'VE AT LEAST GOT TO PUT SOMETHING DOWN FOR IT!
SMASH
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!!
YOU TOLD ME TO PUT SOMETHING DOWN!
BUT THESE TOYS COST AN ARM AND A LEG!
AN ARM AND A LEG?!
GOSH, GOOD THING I'VE GOT TWO OF EACH... HERE'S A LEG...
COME ON, COBALT... YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN BEFORE YOU GO SHOPPING...
LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING REALLY COOL... THAT'S A ROBOTTING CONTEST! IT'S A MATCH BETWEEN ROBOTS, HELD ONCE A YEAR.
INTERNATIONAL ROBOTTING MATCH
ROBOT STADIUM
SEE? ROBOTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD COME HERE AND TRY TO SEE WHO'S THE STRONGEST...
DID YOU EVER PARTICIPATE, ASTRO?

LET'S SIT OVER THERE! I SEE SOME OPEN SEATS!
IT'S THE TENTH ROUND OF A MATCH BETWEEN TWO 200,000 HORSEPOWER CHAMPION ROBOTS!
GOSH! THIS IS SO EXCITING!
HANG IN THERE, GUYS!
CRASH
VROOM
AND THE VICTOR IS THE GERMAN CHAMPION, SHUBE NO. 1!
VOMP
KAVOOOM
COBALT, YOU THINK WE'VE GOT 100,000 HORSE-POWER LIKE OUR OLDER BROTHER, ASTRO?
GOSH, I THINK SO...
YAY YAY HOORAY YAY
HEY, WHERE'D URAN GO, COBALT?
SHE WAS HERE A SECOND AGO...


AND NEXT... THE CHAMPION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MONGOLIA, THE 100,000 HORSEPOWER GENGHIS KHAN BARBECUE, RANKED FOURTH IN THE WORLD!
BRAMRUWRAGO!
YAY! YAY! YAY!
A STRANGE GIRL'S ENTERING THE ARENA, MR. CHAIRMAN...
THIS WON'T DO! SOMEBODY STOP HER!
YAY! YAY! YAY! YAY!
BUGWUDODEDAMA!
HEY, LOOKIT THE CUTE CHICK IN THE ARENA!
SHE'S ONE OF THE ATHLETES?
HEY! IT'S DANGER-OUS IN THERE!
SHE'S A NEW TRANSISTOR MODEL!
GET 'IM! GO FOR IT!
THIS IS TOO CRUEL! STOP!!
YAY YAY HOORAY YAY


HEY! THAT'S MY NEW KID SISTER!!
DOGOBUJIBO!
EEEK!
CHA
YAY YAY HOORAY YAY
SHWK
LOOK! SHE STOPPED HIM!
WOW! SHE'S ACTUALLY PUSHING HIM BACK!
VROOOOM

URAN!
URAN! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN YOUR SEAT!
B... BUT I WANNA HAVE MORE FUN!
FUN? BUT IT'S AGAINST THE RULES FOR YOU TO BE HERE!
WHAT ARE RULES?
RULES AREN'T MEANT TO BE BROKEN!
YOU NEED PERMISSION FROM THE CHAIRMAN TO PARTICIPATE IN A ROBOTTING MATCH! AND YOU HAVE TO REGISTER!
THEN I WANNA REGISTER! IT'S REALLY GREAT EXCERCISE, ASTRO...


BRRRING BRRRING
TIME TO GET UP!
RISE 'N SHINE!
RISE 'N...
SMASH
THING'S WAY TOO NOISY...
COBALT! URAN!
TIME TO GET UP!
HURRY, OR YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!
WHA? AW, IT'S JUST TV!
WE C'N JUST TURN IT OFF...
YEAH, WHO WANTS TA GO TA SCHOOL?
SCREE SCREE
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS SOUND?!

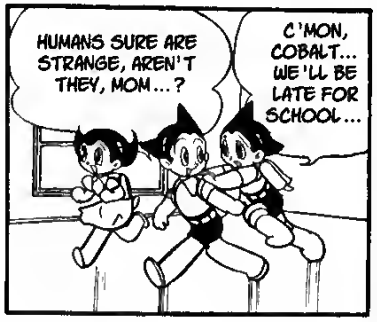
SCREE
WE'RE AWAKE NOW! YOU C'N TURN IT OFF...
MORNING, ASTRO!
HURRY UP, COBALT... TIME TA SCRUB 'N POLISH YOUR BODY....
DON'T SEE WHY WE HAVE TO DO THIS EVERY DAY...
DON'T TAKE ALL DAY, YOU GUYS! BREAKFAST IS READY!
WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?
GLUB BLUG GLUB
YIKES!
DO YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE DOING, SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
WE DIDN'T MEAN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, ASTRO...
COBALT WANTED TO TRY SOMETHING, ASTRO...

VROOOM
I THOUGHT IF I CONNECTED MY MOTOR TO URAN'S THAT IT'D BE LIKE A WASHING MACHINE, 'N WE'D GET CLEANER A LOT EASIER!
WHAT? YOU WERE PLAYING WASHING MACHINE?

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DO STUFF LIKE THAT WITHOUT ASKING MOM!

ALL RIGHT, COBALT, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR BREAKFAST REFUEL... BEND OVER NOW...

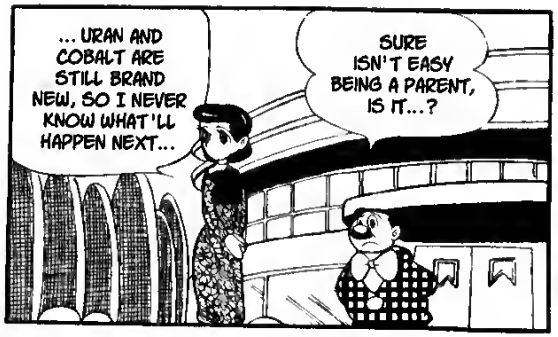
MOM, HOW COME WE TAKE IN FUEL FROM OUR REAR ENDS BUT HUMANS EAT FOOD WITH THEIR MOUTHS?
THAT'S BECAUSE WE EAT DIFFERENT THINGS, COBALT...


HUMANS SURE ARE STRANGE, AREN'T THEY, MOM...?
C'MON, COBALT... WE'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL...

NOW DON'T YOU KIDS GO MAKING FUN OF HUMANS!

SEE YOU LATER, MOM!

KIDS GET OFF OKAY?
YES...

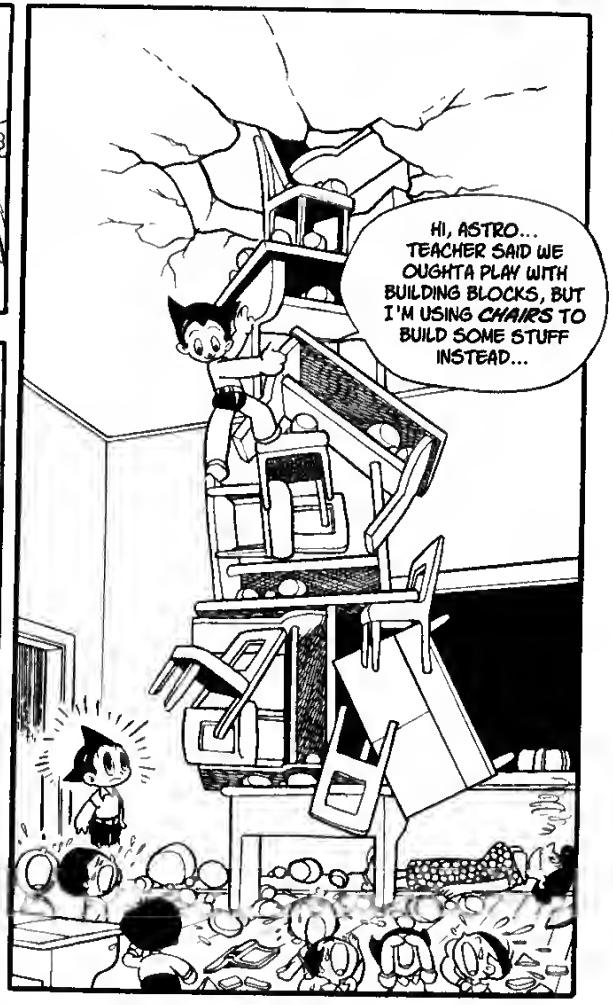

...URAN AND COBALT ARE STILL BRAND NEW, SO I NEVER KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN NEXT...
SURE ISN'T EASY BEING A PARENT, IS IT...?

NOT LIKE US, ARE THEY? WE WERE ADULTS FROM THE MOMENT WE WERE BORN...

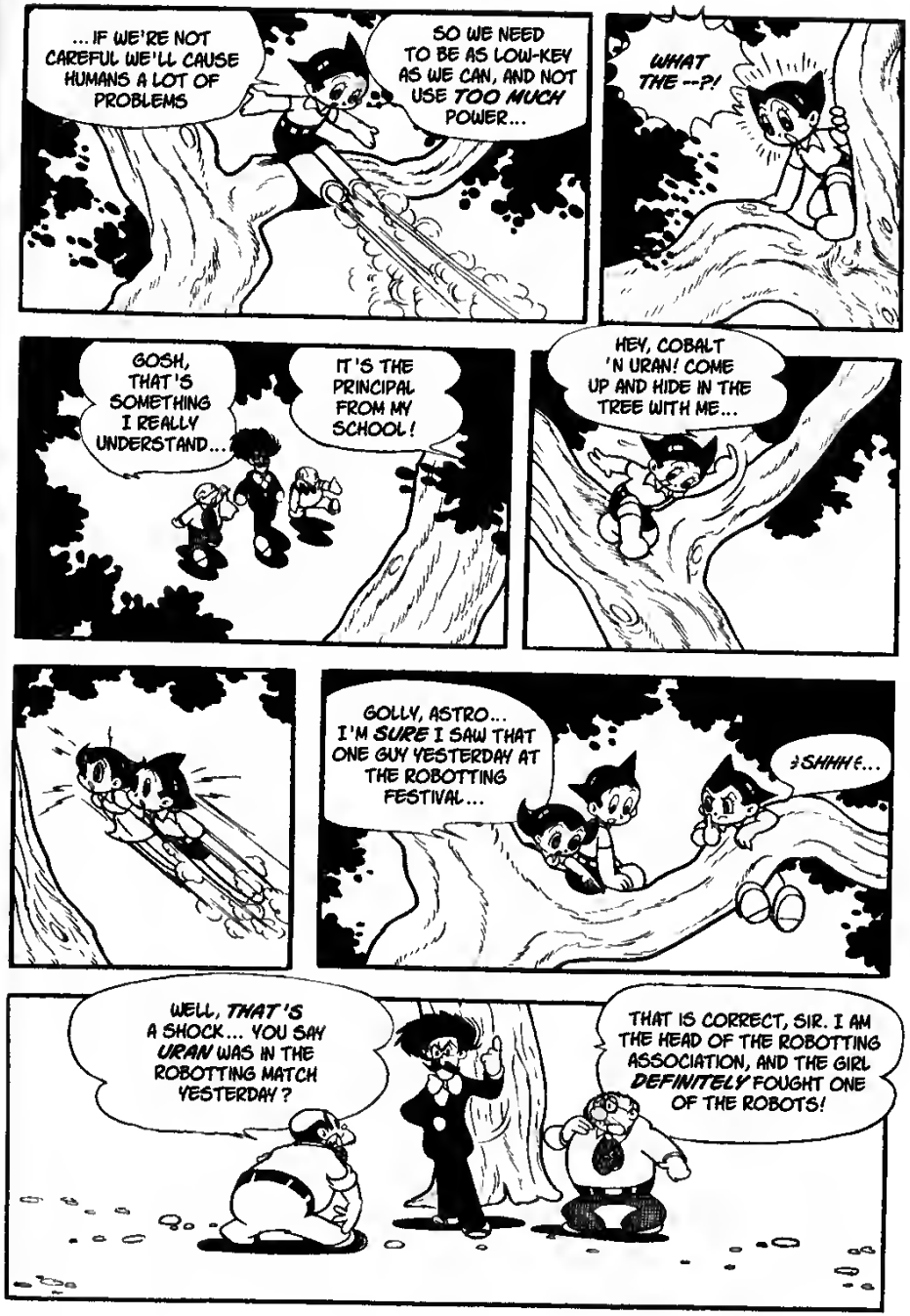
RIGHT. WE WERE PARENTS...

I THINK IN MY NEXT LIFE I'D LIKE TA BE A KID...

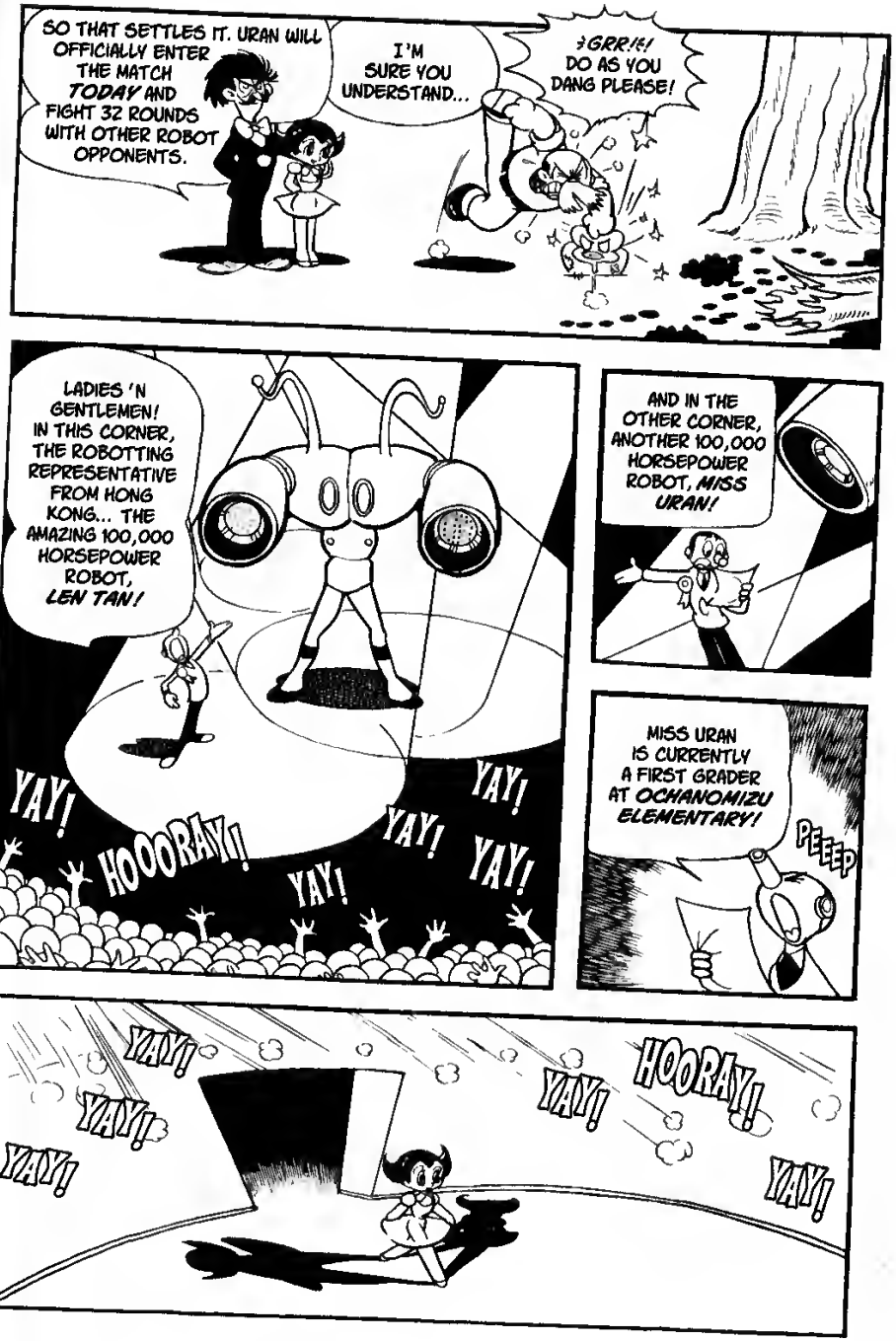
TAKING CARE OF YOUNGER BROTHERS 'N SISTERS ISN'T EASY!


HI, ASTRO... TEACHER SAID WE OUGHTA PLAY WITH BUILDING BLOCKS, BUT I'M USING CHAIRS TO BUILD SOME STUFF INSTEAD...

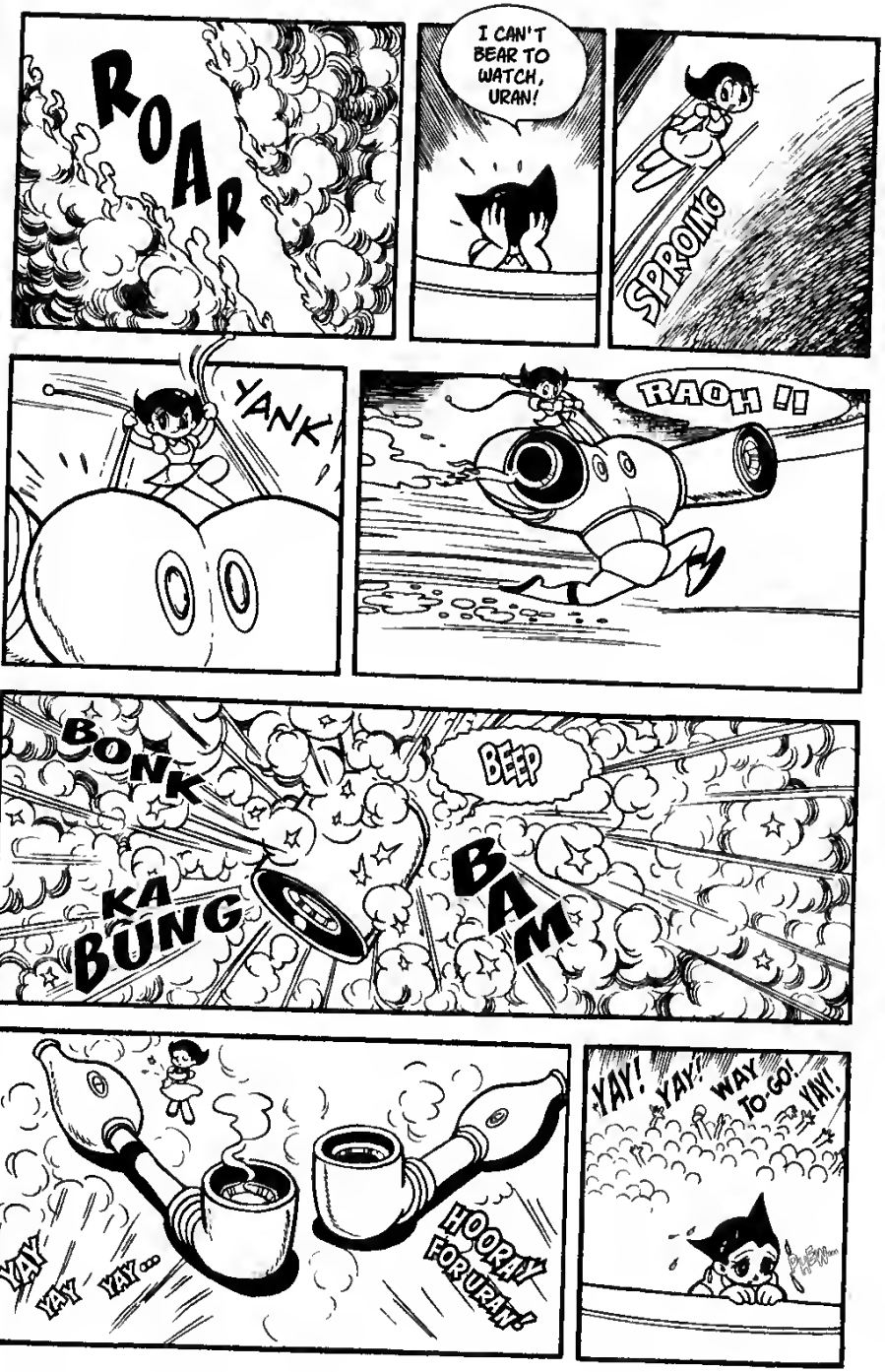
AT THIS RATE, URAN'S PROB'LY GETTING INTO TROUBLE, TOO!
SO WE ALL JOIN HANDS 'N WE ALL FALL DOWN...
}OUCH!{
HALP! STOP!
}OWW!{
}OOOHH!{
I NEED TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU TWO...
LISTEN... YOU'RE BOTH ROBOTS, 'N WE ROBOTS ARE DIFFERENT FROM HUMANS!
WE KNOW THAT!
BUT WE'RE GOING TO HUMAN SCHOOLS, ASTRO!
...THAT'S BECAUSE ROBOTS WANT TO BE AS SIMILAR TO HUMANS AS POSSIBLE...
BUT WE'RE SO MUCH STRONGER THAN HUMANS, IF WE EXERT OURSELVES EVEN JUST A LITTLE...


...IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL WE'LL CAUSE HUMANS A LOT OF PROBLEMS
SO WE NEED TO BE AS LOW-KEY AS WE CAN, AND NOT USE TOO MUCH POWER...
WHAT THE --?!
GOSH, THAT'S SOMETHING I REALLY UNDERSTAND...
IT'S THE PRINCIPAL FROM MY SCHOOL!
HEY, COBALT 'N URAN! COME UP AND HIDE IN THE TREE WITH ME...
GOLLY, ASTRO... I'M SURE I SAW THAT ONE GUY YESTERDAY AT THE ROBOTTING FESTIVAL...
}SHHH{...
WELL, THAT'S A SHOCK... YOU SAY URAN WAS IN THE ROBOTTING MATCH YESTERDAY?
THAT IS CORRECT, SIR. I AM THE HEAD OF THE ROBOTTING ASSOCIATION, AND THE GIRL DEFINITELY FOUGHT ONE OF THE ROBOTS!

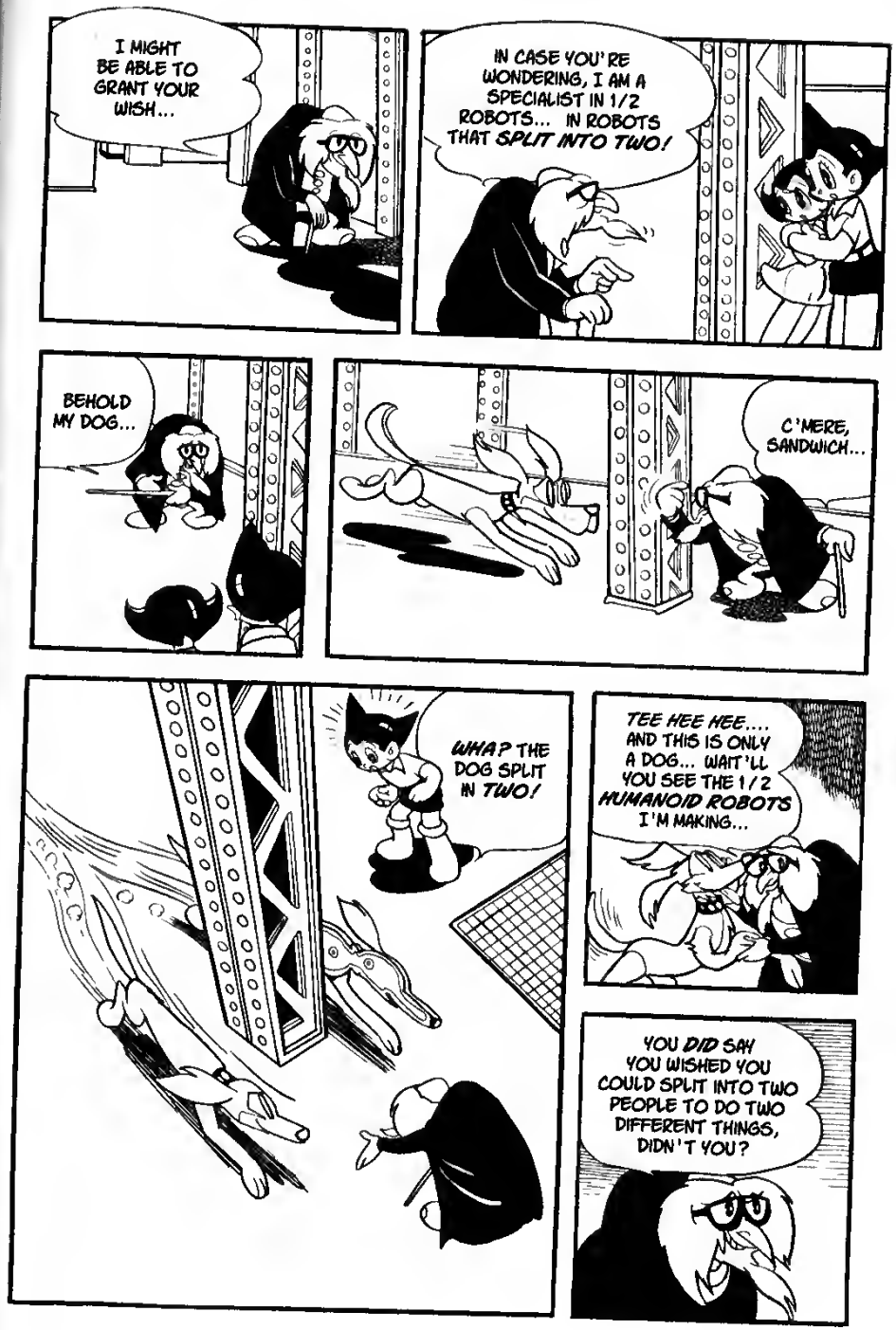
THIS IS A MOST SHAMEFUL EVENT IN OUR SCHOOL'S HISTORY, MUSTACHIO!
B-BUT WHO LET THE KIDS IN THE MATCH, EH?
EHEM!... GENTLEMEN, THE POINT IS...
...THAT ACCORDING TO THE RULES, ANY ROBOT THAT FORMALLY APPEARS IN THE MATCH HAS TO FIGHT 32 BOUTS!
THAT'S ALL FINE 'N DANDY, BUT URAN'S STILL A KID!!
AH, BUT SHE'S ALSO A ROBOT, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN!
SO ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF ROBOTTING, I MUST FORMALLY REQUEST THAT SHE APPEAR...
THEN I MUST BEG YOU TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL! URAN'S NOT AROUND...
CRACK
KATHUD
URAN?!!
ALL RIGHT, ASTRO... ARE YOU THE ONE WHO PUT URAN UP TO THIS?!
ACTUALLY, I ENTERED ON MY OWN, TEACHER....
I COULDN'T HELP IT! IT LOOKED LIKE FUN!
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, YOUNG URAN HERE IS SAYING SHE'D BE GLAD TO ENTER THE ROBOTTING FESTIVAL...

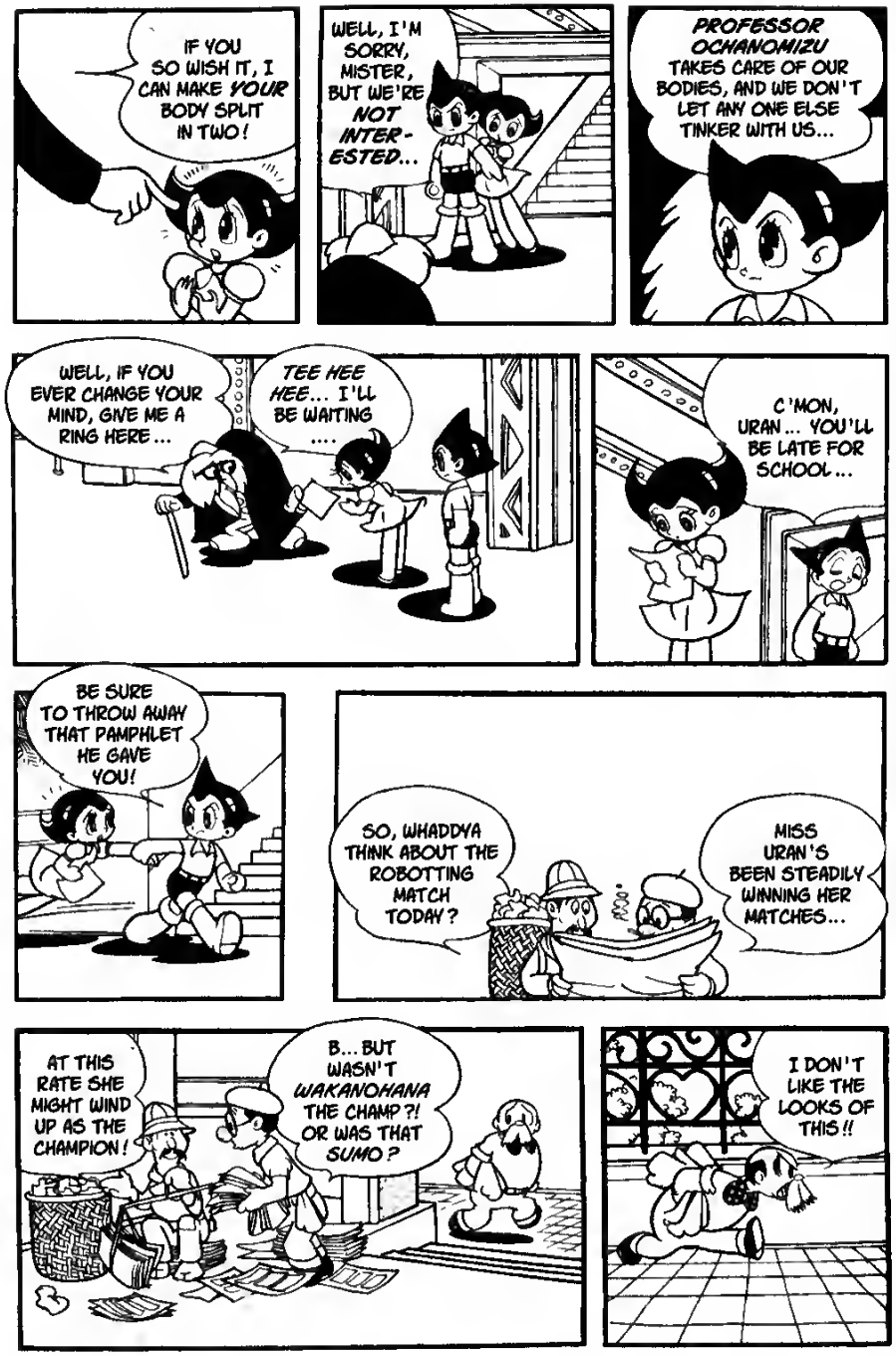

SO THAT SETTLES IT. URAN WILL OFFICIALLY ENTER THE MATCH TODAY AND FIGHT 32 ROUNDS WITH OTHER ROBOT OPPONENTS.
I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND...
GRR!! DO AS YOU DANG PLEASE!
LADIES 'N GENTLEMEN! IN THIS CORNER, THE ROBOTTING REPRESENTATIVE FROM HONG KONG... THE AMAZING 100,000 HORSEPOWER ROBOT, LEN TAN!
YAY!
HOORAY!!
AND IN THE OTHER CORNER, ANOTHER 100,000 HORSEPOWER ROBOT, MISS URAN!
MISS URAN IS CURRENTLY A FIRST GRADER AT OCHANOMIZU ELEMENTARY!
PEEEP
HOORAY!

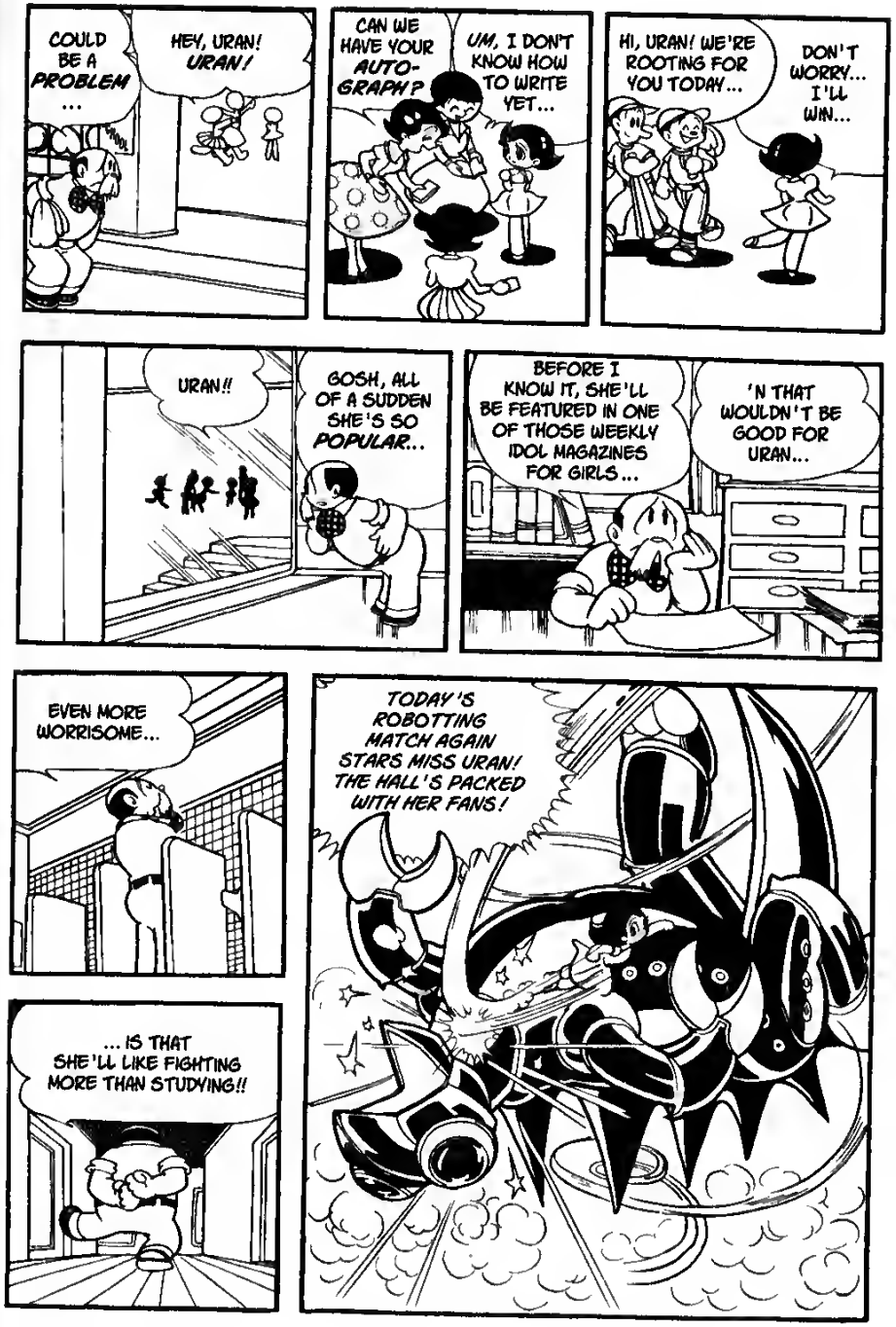
IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS YOUNG LADY MADE HER FIRST APPEARANCE IN A MATCH ONLY FIVE DAYS AGO...
THIS BEING ONLY HER SECOND MATCH, DOES SHE EVEN STAND A CHANCE?
SO PETITE AND CUTE, HOW CAN SHE POSSIBLE MUSTER THE POWER SHE'LL EED?
ROTV
YEAH
YAY
YAY
YAY
YAY
YAY
HOORAY
I'M ROOTING FOR YOU URAN!! HANG IN THERE!
VOOOOSH
VOOOOSH

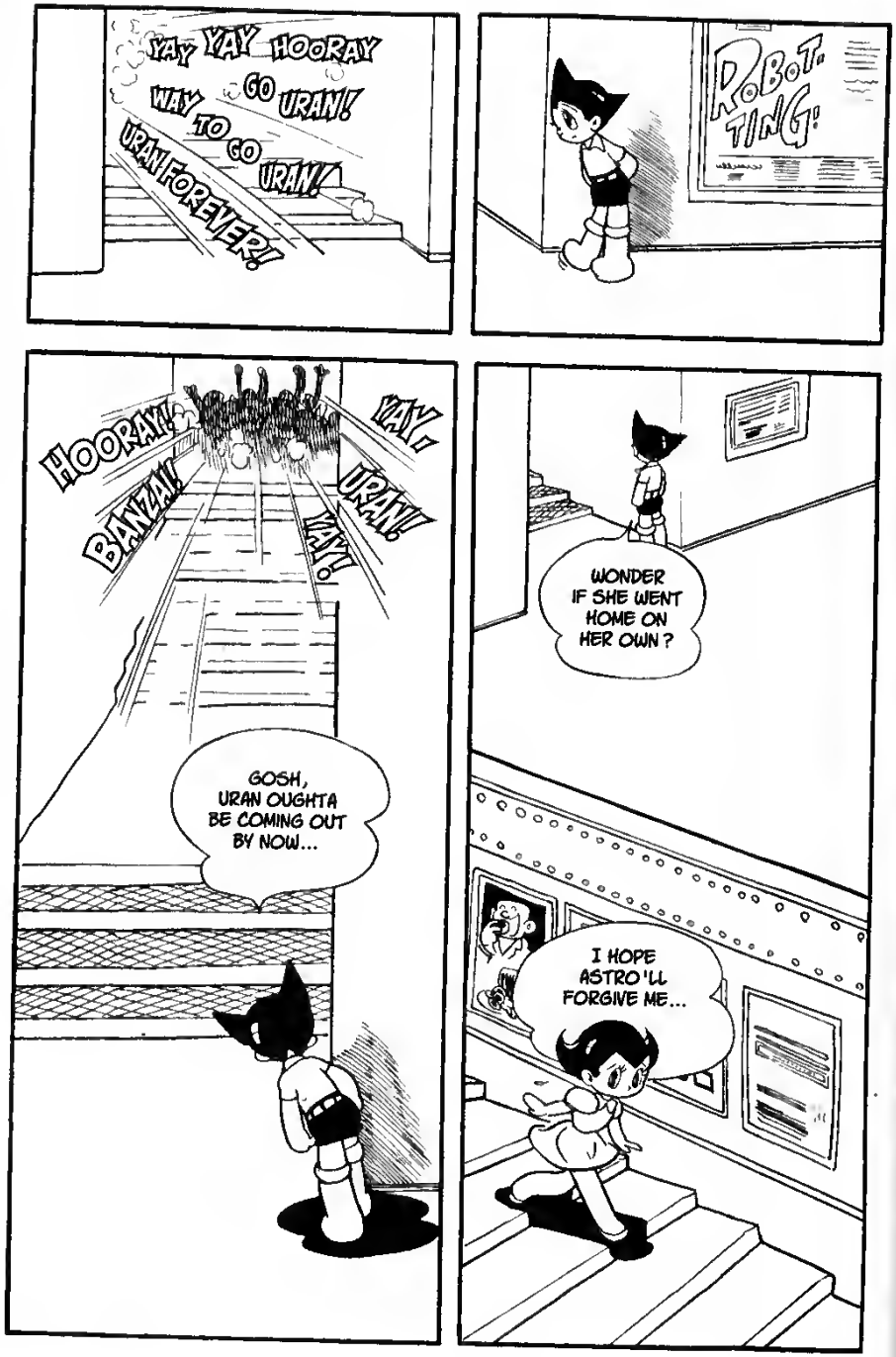

ROAR
I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH, URAN!
SPROING
YANK!
RAOH!!
BONK
BEEP
KA BUNG
BAM
YAY
YAY
YAY...
HOORAY FOR URAN!
YAY!
YAY!
WAY TO-GO!
YAY!

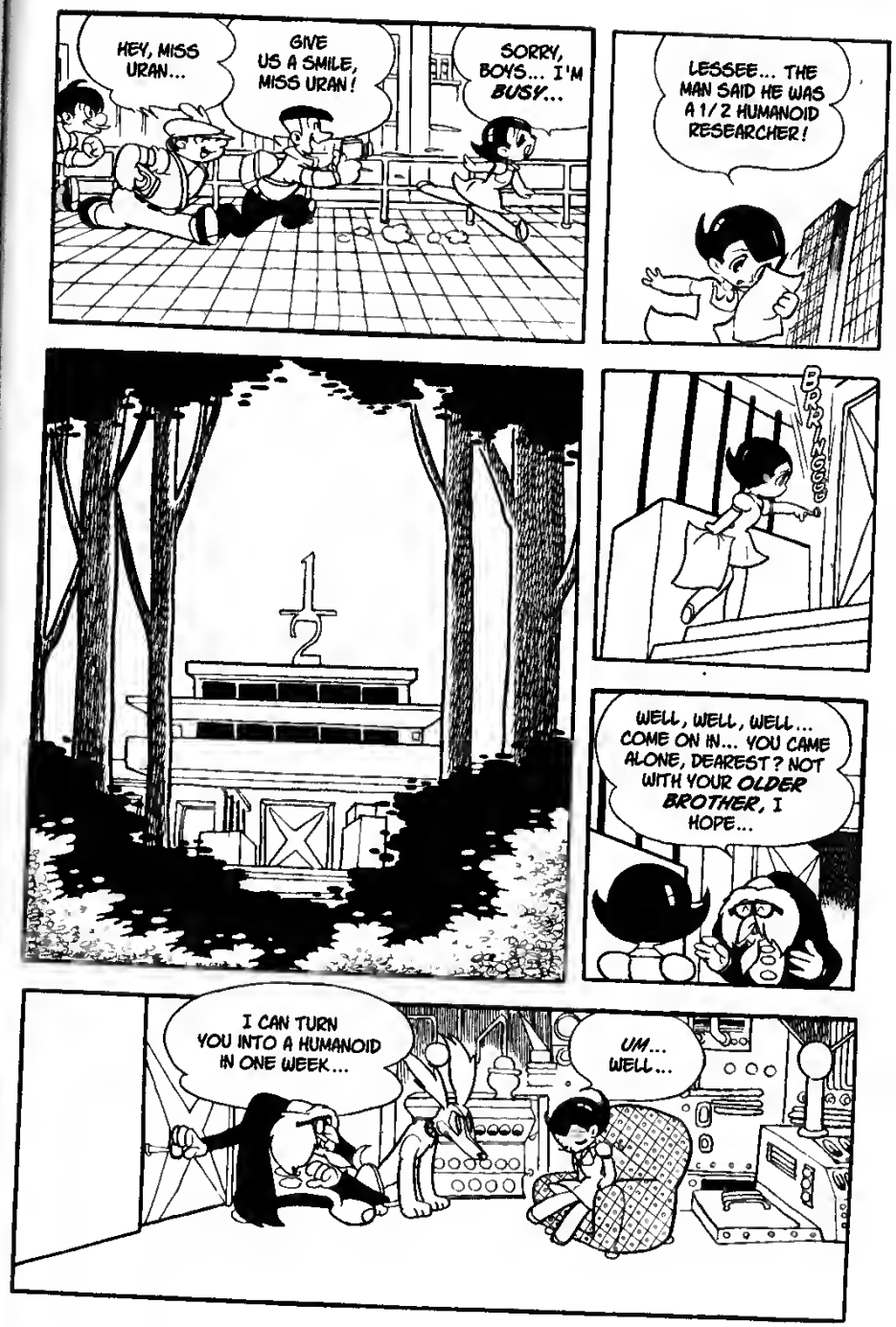
I WON, ASTRO! I WON!
YEAH, BUT YOU REALLY HAD ME WORRIED, URAN!
I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO JUMP IN AND SAVE YOU...
THEY SAY I GO UP AGAINST SOMEONE EVEN MORE POWERFUL TOMORROW, ASTRO!
BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO TO SCHOOL, URAN...
KNOW WHAT, ASTRO...? I THINK I LIKE ROBOTTING BETTER THAN SCHOOL...
BUT WE'RE KIDS, URAN, AND KIDS HAVE TO GOT TO SCHOOL...
YEAH, BUT IT'S HARD GOING TO SCHOOL AND BEING IN THE ROBOTTING MATCH...
I ALMOST WISH MY BODY COULD SPLIT INTO TWO PEOPLE...
HOW COME?
?
WELL, THEN ONE OF ME COULD GO TO SCHOOL AND THE OTHER COULD GO TO THE ROBOTTING MATCH...
NOW, URAN... THAT'S NOT BEING REALISTIC. YOU'VE GOTTA GO TO SCHOOL.
AH... IT MAY NOT BE AS UNREALISTIC AS IT SOUNDS...
WHA?!


I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GRANT YOUR WISH...
IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, I AM A SPECIALIST IN 1/2 ROBOTS... IN ROBOTS THAT SPLIT INTO TWO!
BEHOLD MY DOG...
C'MERE, SANDWICH...
WHA? THE DOG SPLIT IN TWO!
TEE HEE HEE.... AND THIS IS ONLY A DOG... WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE 1/2 HUMANOID ROBOTS I'M MAKING...
YOU DID SAY YOU WISHED YOU COULD SPLIT INTO TWO PEOPLE TO DO TWO DIFFERENT THINGS, DIDN'T YOU?


IF YOU SO WISH IT, I CAN MAKE YOUR BODY SPLIT IN TWO!
WELL, I'M SORRY, MISTER, BUT WE'RE NOT INTER-ESTED...
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU TAKES CARE OF OUR BODIES, AND WE DON'T LET ANY ONE ELSE TINKER WITH US...
WELL, IF YOU EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND, GIVE ME A RING HERE...
TEE HEE HEE... I'LL BE WAITING ....
C'MON, URAN... YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL...
BE SURE TO THROW AWAY THAT PAMPHLET HE GAVE YOU!
SO, WHADDYA THINK ABOUT THE ROBOTTING MATCH TODAY?
MISS URAN'S BEEN STEADILY WINNING HER MATCHES...
AT THIS RATE SHE MIGHT WIND UP AS THE CHAMPION!
B... BUT WASN'T WAKANOHANA THE CHAMP?! OR WAS THAT SUMO?
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS!!

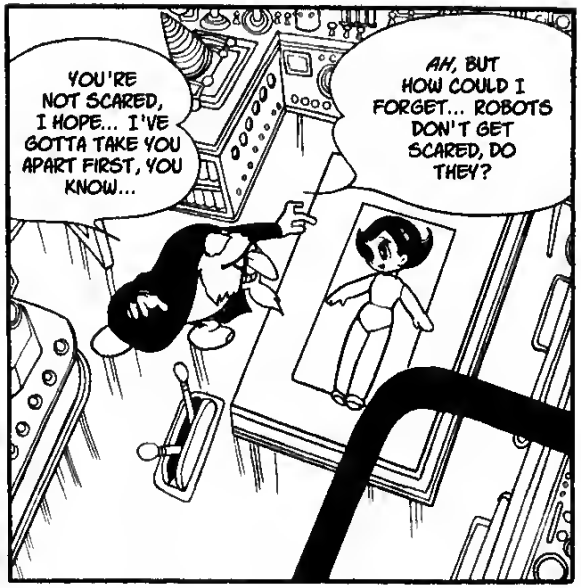

COULD BE A PROBLEM ...
HEY, URAN! URAN!
CAN WE HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?
UM, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE YET...
HI, URAN! WE'RE ROOTING FOR YOU TODAY...
DON'T WORRY... I'LL WIN...
URAN!!
GOSH, ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE'S SO POPULAR...
BEFORE I KNOW IT, SHE'LL BE FEATURED IN ONE OF THOSE WEEKLY IDOL MAGAZINES FOR GIRLS...
'N THAT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR URAN...
EVEN MORE WORRISOME...
TODAY'S ROBOTTING MATCH AGAIN STARS MISS URAN! THE HALL'S PACKED WITH HER FANS!
... IS THAT SHE'LL LIKE FIGHTING MORE THAN STUDYING!!


YAY YAY HOORAY
GO URAN!
WAY TO GO URAN!
URAN FOREVER!
ROBOT-TING!
HOORAY!
BANZAI!
YAY, URAN!
YAY!
GOSH, URAN OUGHTA BE COMING OUT BY NOW...
WONDER IF SHE WENT HOME ON HER OWN?
I HOPE ASTRO'LL FORGIVE ME...


HEY, MISS URAN...
GIVE US A SMILE, MISS URAN!
SORRY, BOYS... I'M BUSY...
LESSEE... THE MAN SAID HE WAS A 1/2 HUMANOID RESEARCHER!
BRRRING
WELL, WELL, WELL... COME ON IN... YOU CAME ALONE, DEAREST? NOT WITH YOUR OLDER BROTHER, I HOPE...
I CAN TURN YOU INTO A HUMANOID IN ONE WEEK...
UM... WELL...

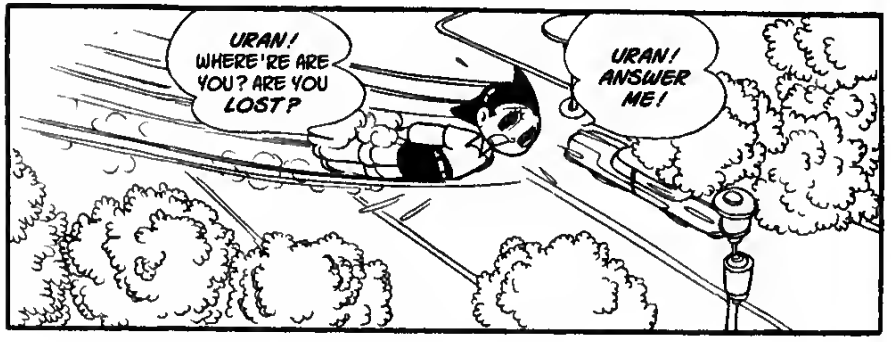
I CAME WITHOUT TELLING MY PARENTS, SO I WAS HOPING YOU COULD DO IT IN A DAY...

HMM... ONE DAY? PRETTY DIFFICULT...
... BUT I CAN GIVE IT A TRY...


YOU'RE NOT SCARED, I HOPE... I'VE GOTTA TAKE YOU APART FIRST, YOU KNOW...
AH, BUT HOW COULD I FORGET... ROBOTS DON'T GET SCARED, DO THEY?

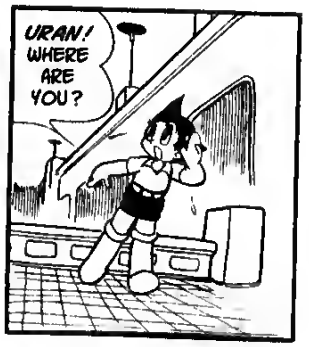
CLOSE YOUR EYES NOW...
THERE WE GO... GOOD GIRL...

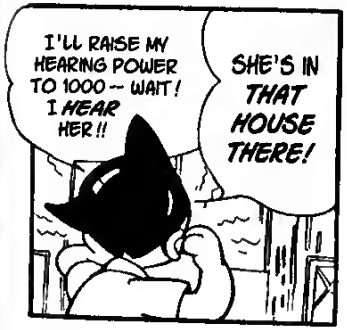
HEE HEE HEE... NOW FOR THE FUN PART...


URAN! WHERE'RE ARE YOU? ARE YOU LOST?
URAN! ANSWER ME!

YOU GUYS SEEN URAN?
TRUCTION

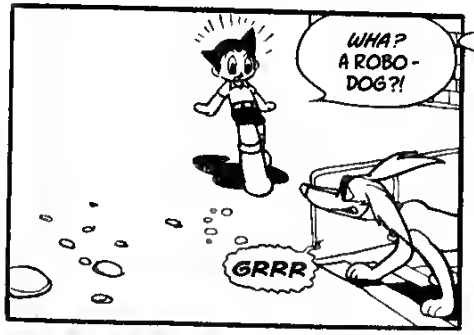
SHE WENT THAT-A-WAY...

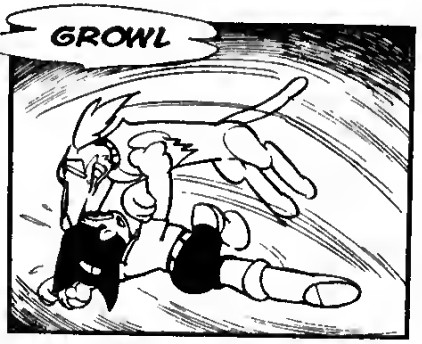

URAN! WHERE ARE YOU?

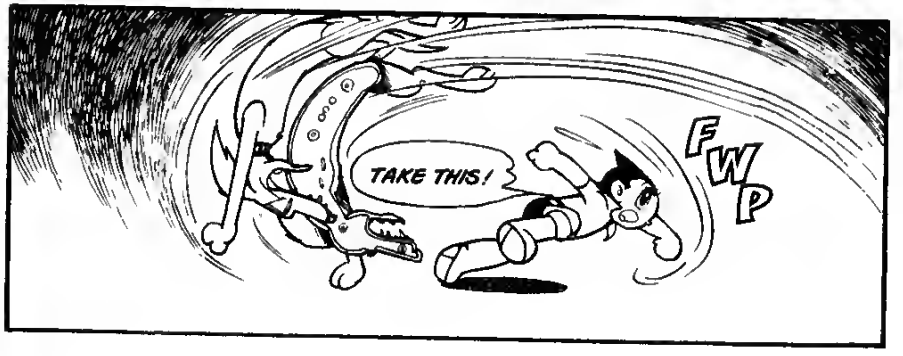

I'LL RAISE MY HEARING POWER TO 1000 -- WAIT! I HEAR HER!!
SHE'S IN THAT HOUSE THERE!

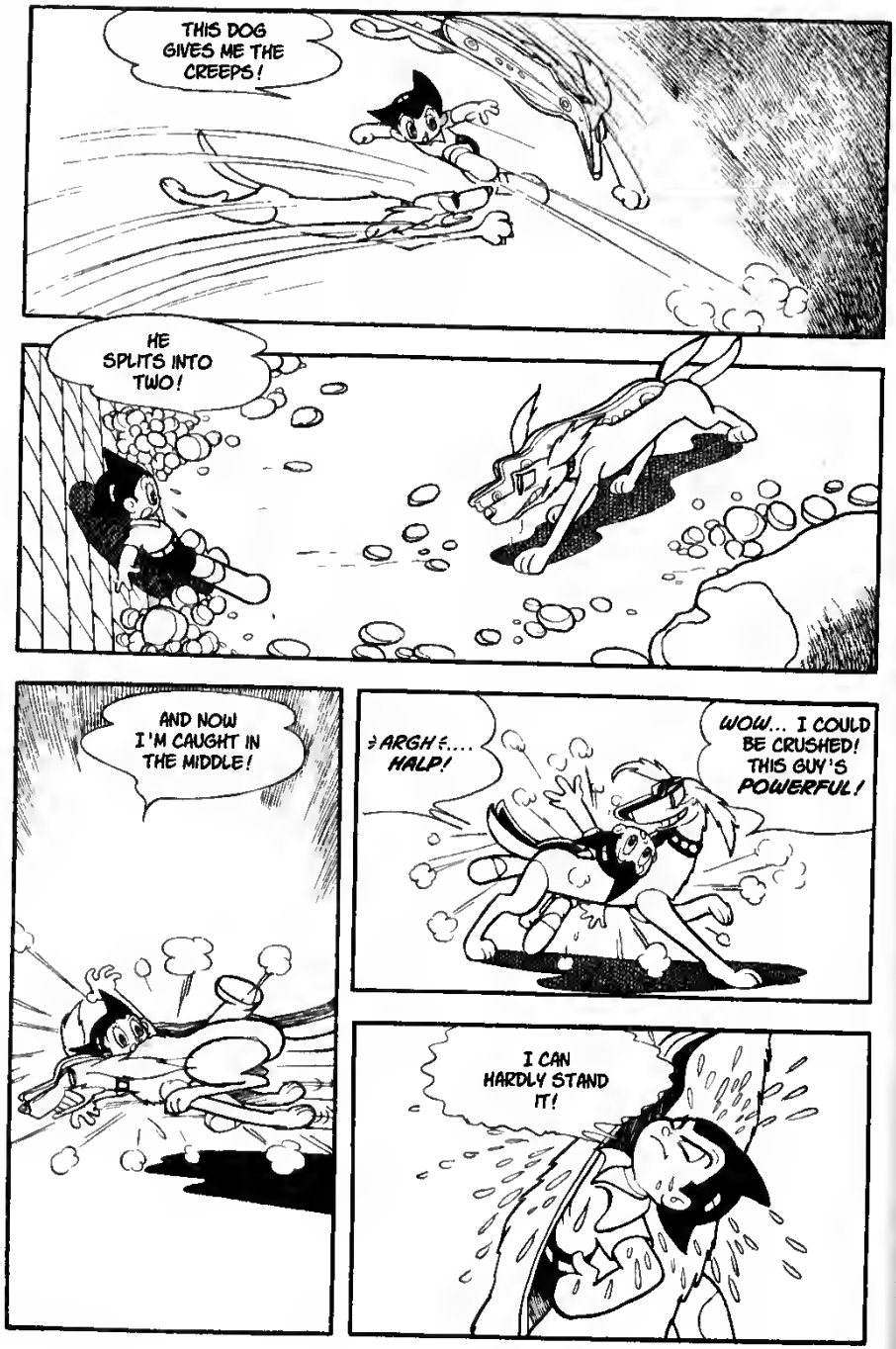
BLAST IT! SOMEONE'S DETECTED ME!

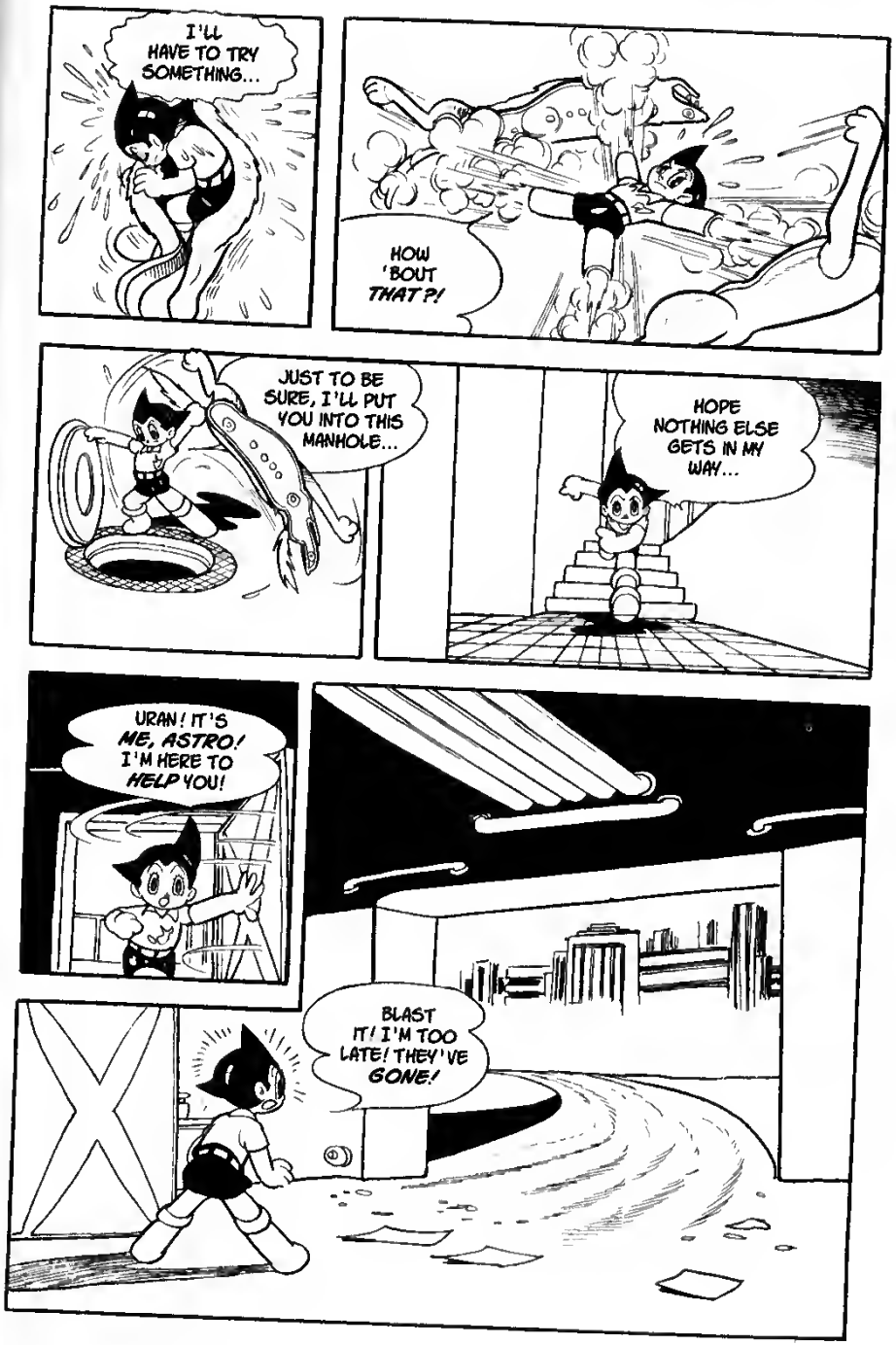
GO DRIVE 'EM AWAY, SANDWICH!

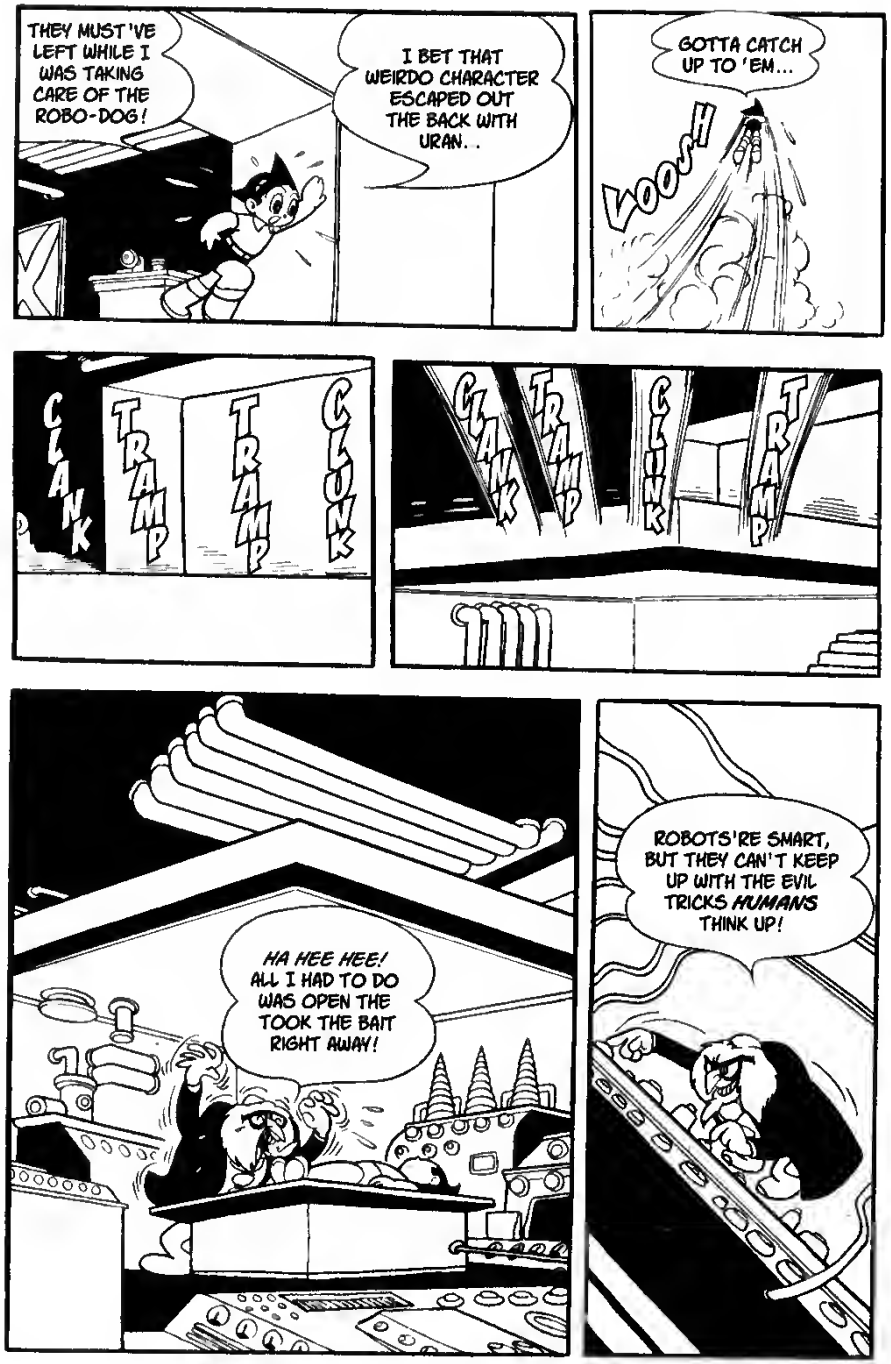

WHA? A ROBO-DOG?!
GRRR


GROWL

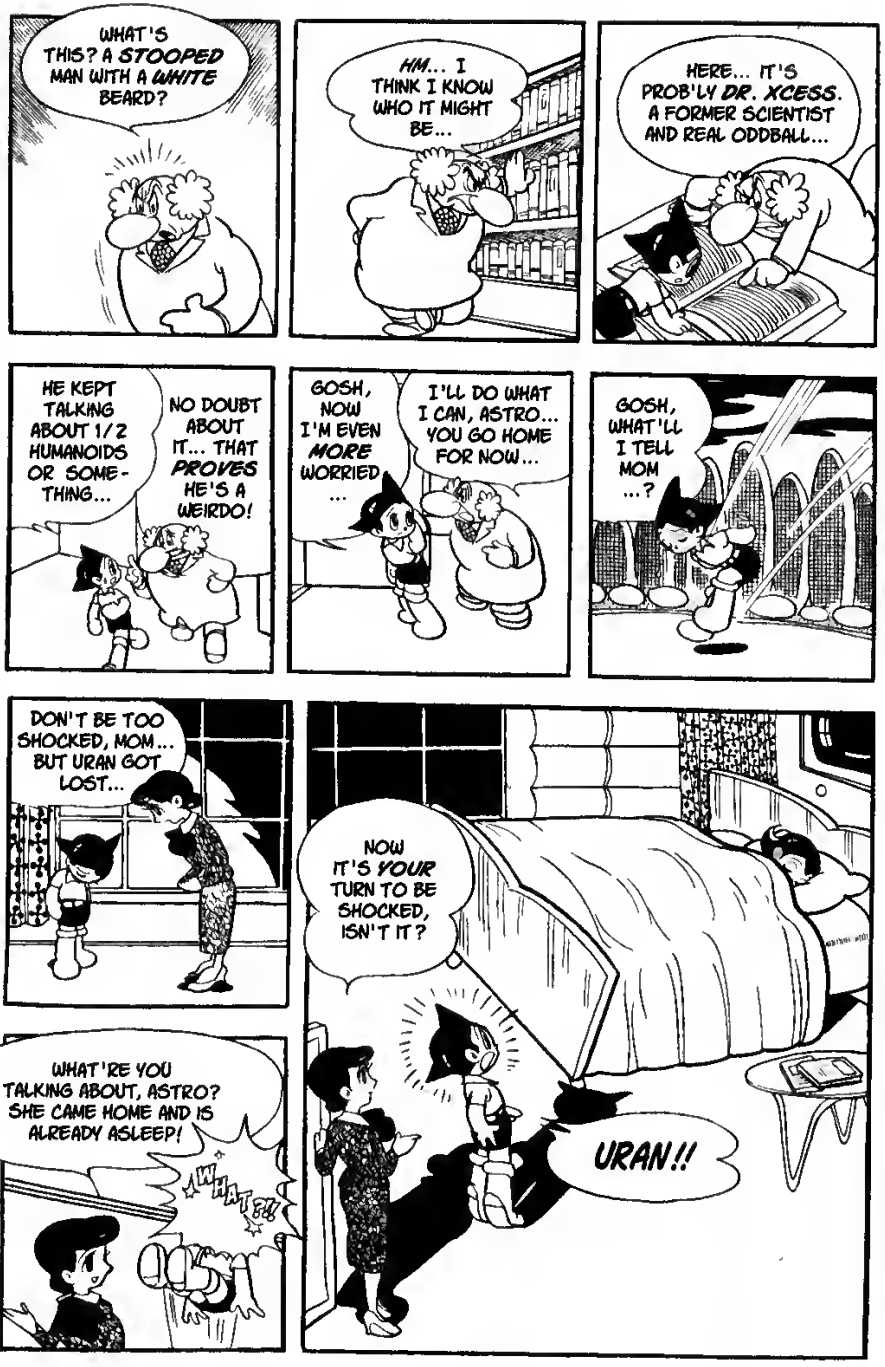

TAKE THIS!
FWP

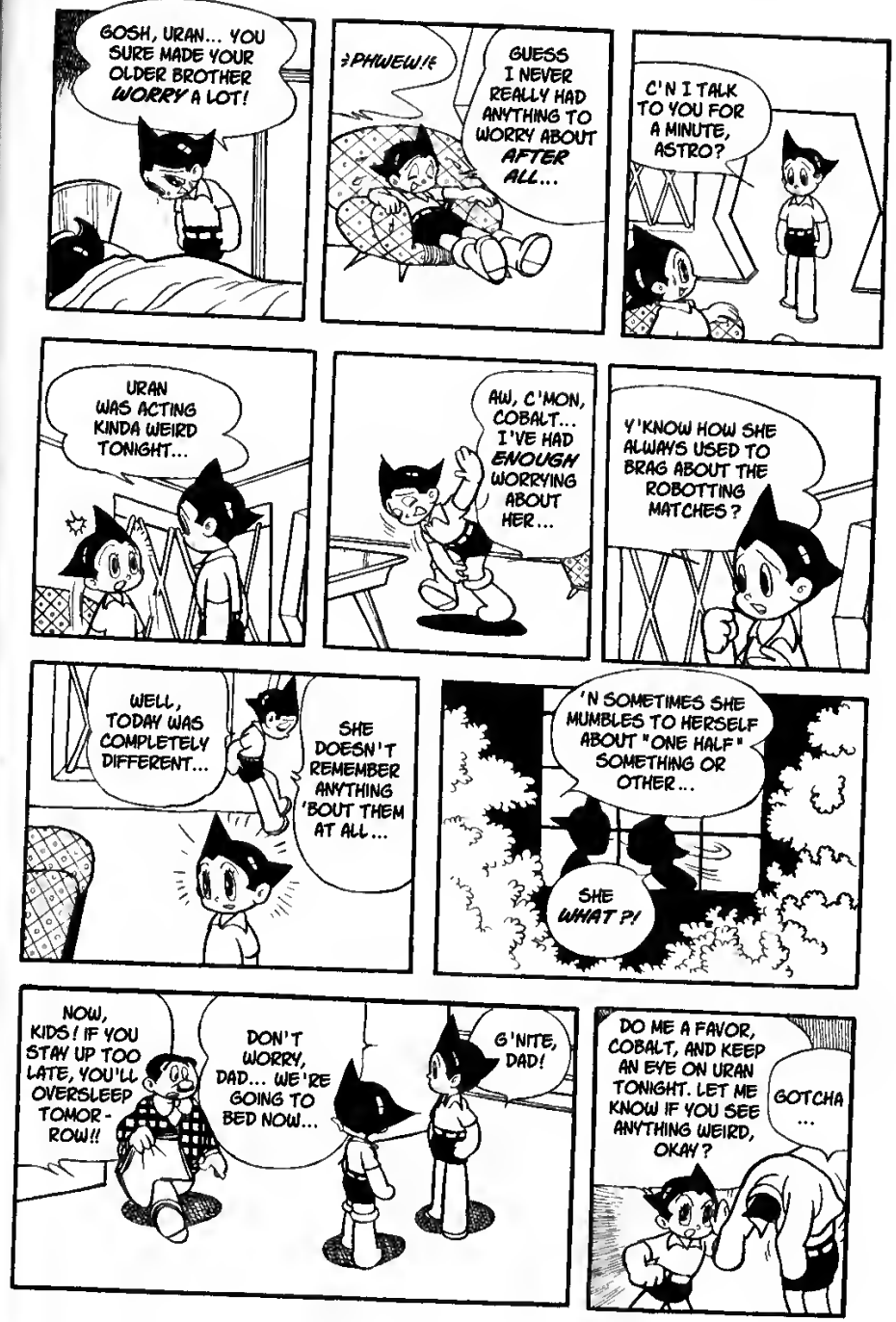

THIS DOG GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
HE SPLITS INTO TWO!
AND NOW I'M CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE!
ARGH!... HALP!
WOW... I COULD BE CRUSHED! THIS GUY'S POWERFUL!
I CAN HARDLY STAND IT!


I'LL HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING...
HOW 'BOUT THAT?!
JUST TO BE SURE, I'LL PUT YOU INTO THIS MANHOLE...
HOPE NOTHING ELSE GETS IN MY WAY...
URAN! IT'S ME, ASTRO! I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!
BLAST IT! I'M TOO LATE! THEY'VE GONE!


THEY MUST'VE LEFT WHILE I WAS TAKING CARE OF THE ROBO-DOG!
I BET THAT WEIRDO CHARACTER ESCAPED OUT THE BACK WITH URAN. .
GOTTA CATCH UP TO 'EM...
WOOSH
CLANK
TRAMP
TRAMP
CLUNK
CLANK
TRAMP
CLUNK
TRAMP
HA HEE HEE! ALL I HAD TO DO WAS OPEN THE TOOK THE BAIT RIGHT AWAY!
ROBOTS'RE SMART, BUT THEY CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE EVIL TRICKS HUMANS THINK UP!

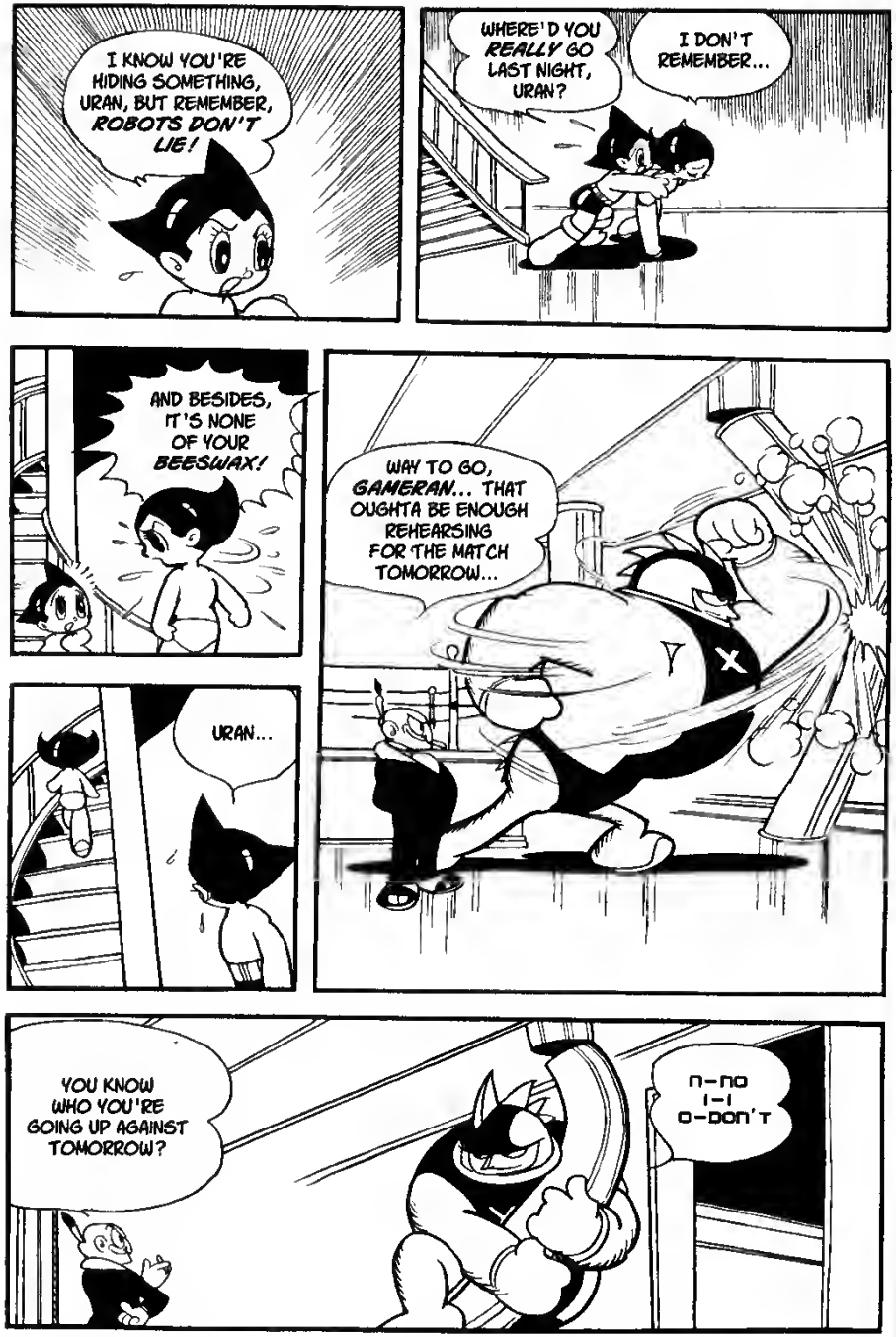
HOKAY, LITTLE GIRL... TIME FOR ME TO MAKE A MESS OUT OF YOU... HEE HEE HEE!
BZZT
BZZZT
BZZZT
PROFESSOR!!!
WHAT'S UP, ASTRO? IT'S LATE AT NIGHT!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT, PROFESSOR! I CAUSED SOMETHING TERRIBLE!! ≠WAAAA!≠
NOW, NOW, ASTRO... STOP CRYING AND TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!
...SO I LOST SIGHT OF URAN 'N I'VE SPENT ALL DAY LOOKING FOR HER 'N I CAN'T FIND HER ANYWHERE...
AS HER OLDER BROTHER, I'M A FAILURE!!
SHE'S PROBABLY BEING TAKEN APART BY THAT WEIRDO SCIENTIST RIGHT NOW!! ≠WAAA!≠
SO WHO IS THIS WEIRDO, ASTRO?


WHAT'S THIS? A STOOPED MAN WITH A WHITE BEARD?
HM... I THINK I KNOW WHO IT MIGHT BE...
HERE... IT'S PROB'LY DR. XCESS. A FORMER SCIENTIST AND REAL ODDBALL...
HE KEPT TALKING ABOUT 1/2 HUMANOIDS OR SOME-THING...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... THAT PROVES HE'S A WEIRDO!
GOSH, NOW I'M EVEN MORE WORRIED ...
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, ASTRO... YOU GO HOME FOR NOW...
GOSH, WHAT'LL I TELL MOM ...?
DON'T BE TOO SHOCKED, MOM... BUT URAN GOT LOST...
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE SHOCKED, ISN'T IT?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ASTRO? SHE CAME HOME AND IS ALREADY ASLEEP!
WHAT?!
URAN!!

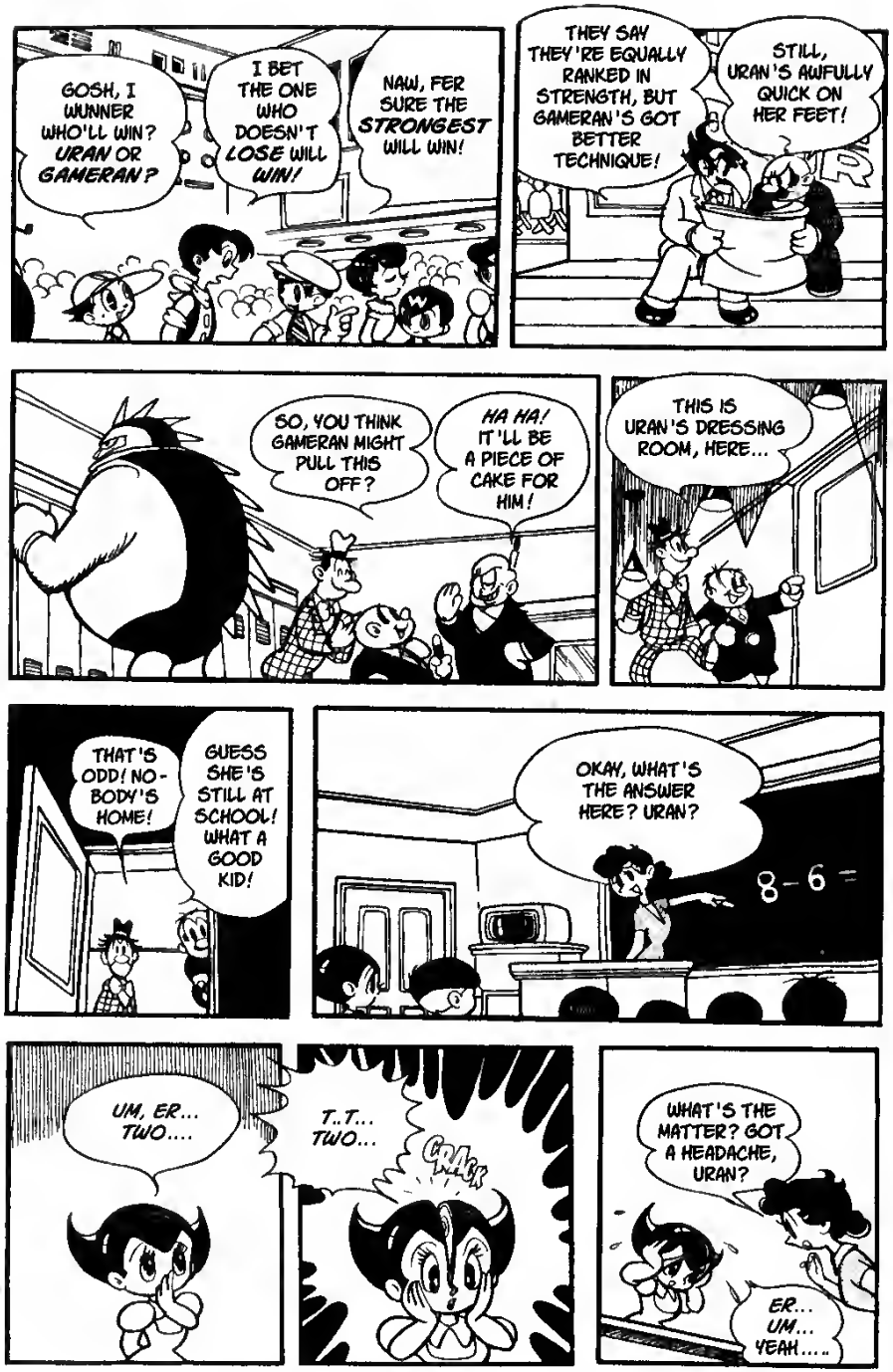

GOSH, URAN... YOU SURE MADE YOUR OLDER BROTHER WORRY A LOT!
PHEW!
GUESS I NEVER REALLY HAD ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT AFTER ALL...
C'N I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE, ASTRO?
URAN WAS ACTING KINDA WEIRD TONIGHT...
AW, C'MON, COBALT... I'VE HAD ENOUGH WORRYING ABOUT HER...
Y'KNOW HOW SHE ALWAYS USED TO BRAG ABOUT THE ROBOTTING MATCHES?
WELL, TODAY WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...
SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING 'BOUT THEM AT ALL...
'N SOMETIMES SHE MUMBLES TO HERSELF ABOUT "ONE HALF" SOMETHING OR OTHER...
SHE WHAT?!
NOW, KIDS! IF YOU STAY UP TOO LATE, YOU'LL OVERSLEEP TOMOR-ROW!!
DON'T WORRY, DAD... WE'RE GOING TO BED NOW...
G'NITE, DAD!
DO ME A FAVOR, COBALT, AND KEEP AN EYE ON URAN TONIGHT. LET ME KNOW IF YOU SEE ANYTHING WEIRD, OKAY?
GOTCHA ...

.....
.....
TWO A.M. 'N ALL'S WELL...
TWO A.M.?... ♪YAWN♪
♪ZZZZ♪
♪ZZZ♪
GEE, I CAN'T SLEEP ...
EVER SINCE I FELL ASLEEP ON THAT TABLE, I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...
I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY BODY...
EEEK!
I JUST SPLIT IN TWO!!
GOSH, WHAT'LL I DO?!!
I BET MOM'LL REALLY BE ANGRY WITH ME... WONDER IF IT CAN EVEN BE REPAIRED...
HEY, I HEAR A PHONE RINGING DOWNSTAIRS!

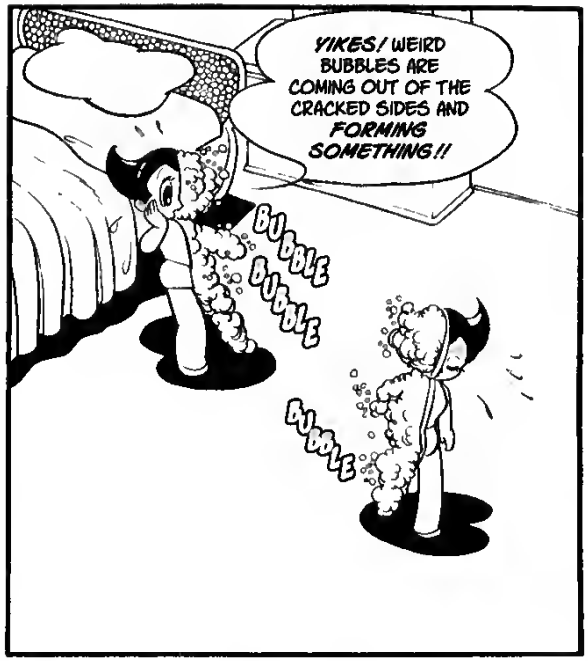
HELLO? OH... DR. XCESS?
UM, THIS IS URAN... MY BODY SPLIT IN TWO EARLIER!
TEE HEE... WELL, WERE YOU THRILLED? WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO REPAIR YOU?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO BE REPAIRED AGAIN, AFTER I DID SUCH A GOOD JOB?
B-BUT DOCTOR... IT FEELS TERRIBLE, AND I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO APPEAR IN PUBLIC LIKE THIS...
NOW, JUST RELAX, YOUNG LADY... I MADE YOU SO YOUR BODY CAN TURN INTO TWO FULL PEOPLE...
JUST RELAX AND GO TO SCHOOL AS YOU PLANNED... YOU CAN EVEN BE IN THE ROBOTTING COMPETITION...
B...BUT WHAT'LL I DO?
HEE HEE HEE... PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT!
♪HMPH.♪ FOR A ROBOT, SHE SURE LACKS SPUNK!
SLAM
GOSH, WHAT'LL I DO?
ALL RIGHT, URAN... WHO CALLED YOU?
ASTRO!
ARE YOU HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME, URAN?!
.....
.....
.....


I KNOW YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING, URAN, BUT REMEMBER, ROBOTS DON'T LIE!
WHERE'D YOU REALLY GO LAST NIGHT, URAN?
I DON'T REMEMBER...
AND BESIDES, IT'S NONE OF YOUR BEESWAX!
WAY TO GO, GAMERAN... THAT OUGHTA BE ENOUGH REHEARSING FOR THE MATCH TOMORROW...
URAN...
YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE GOING UP AGAINST TOMORROW?
N-NO I-I D-DON'T

IT'S URAN, ASTRO'S BABY SISTER, WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM AN' HAS WON EVERY MATCH SO FAR!!
YOU'RE GOING UP AGAINST A GIRL, AN' I WON'T STAND YOU LOSING TO A GIRL IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP! THAT CLEAR?!
FER S-SURE I-I W-WON'T L-LOSE S-S-SIR!
SO GO AHEAD AND FLATTEN 'ER, SMASH 'ER, TAKE 'ER APART!
G-G-GOOD... N-N-NIGHT, PA PA...
SMACK
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, BOY...
LAADIES AAND GENTLEMEN! AT LAST, THE LONG-AWAITED FINAL DAY OF THIS YEAR'S WORLD ROBOTTING CHAMPIONSHIP! THE TITLE MATCH STARTS AT ONE P.M., WITH THE HIGHEST ATTENDANCE THIS SEASON!!!
ROBOTTING
WORLD CHAMPION TOURNAMENT
WORLD ROBOTTING CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH
THIS YEAR THE CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY WILL BE ALL MINE! NO LITTLE GIRL'S GONNA GET IT!!

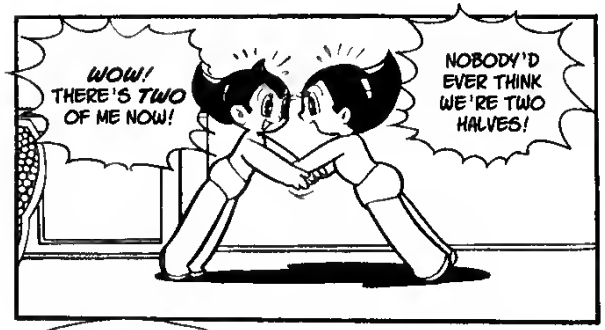

GOSH, I WUNNER WHO'LL WIN? URAN OR GAMERAN?
I BET THE ONE WHO DOESN'T LOSE WILL WIN!
NAW, FER SURE THE STRONGEST WILL WIN!
THEY SAY THEY'RE EQUALLY RANKED IN STRENGTH, BUT GAMERAN'S GOT BETTER TECHNIQUE!
STILL, URAN'S AWFULLY QUICK ON HER FEET!
SO, YOU THINK GAMERAN MIGHT PULL THIS OFF?
HA HA! IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE FOR HIM!
THIS IS URAN'S DRESSING ROOM, HERE...
THAT'S ODD! NOBODY'S HOME!
GUESS SHE'S STILL AT SCHOOL! WHAT A GOOD KID!
OKAY, WHAT'S THE ANSWER HERE? URAN?
8-6=
UM, ER... TWO....
T..T... TWO...
CRACK
WHAT'S THE MATTER? GOT A HEADACHE, URAN?
ER... UM... YEAH.....

YOU GO REST IN THE CLINIC, OKAY?
IT'LL GET BETTER SOON...
I'M FINE, ASTRO... REALLY...
YOU'VE GOTTA REST, URAN...
SHE KEEPS HOLDING HER HEAD, TEACHER...
HMM... AND TODAY'S THE FINAL MATCH OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP, ISN'T IT...
IT STARTS AT ONE P.M.
WE'VE GOTTA STOP HER FROM GOING!
SHE WAS REALLY UP FOR IT, THOUGH...
NO, ASTRO! DON'T LET HER GO! SHE'S GOTTA STOP THIS ROBOTTING NONSENSE!
TODAY'S THE TITLE MATCH...
OH, MY GOSH... TIME TO GO!
I'VE GOTTA GET MOVING!
CRACK
SNAP
HALP! I SPLIT IN TWO!!
RUMBLE
ESSSSH
ESSSSH


YIKES! WEIRD BUBBLES ARE COMING OUT OF THE CRACKED SIDES AND FORMING SOMETHING!!
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE

IT'S TAKING THE SHAPE OF MY FACE!
EEEEEE!

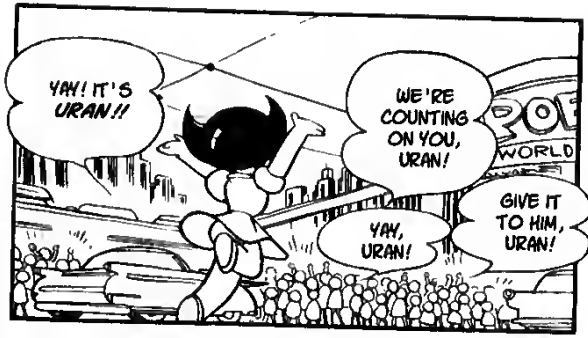
SAME THING'S HAPPENING WITH MY OTHER HALF!

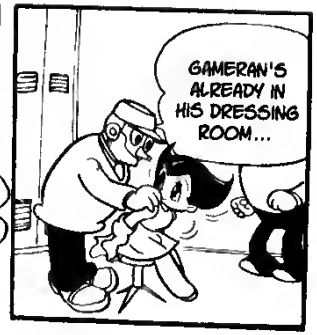

WOW! THERE'S TWO OF ME NOW!
NOBODY'D EVER THINK WE'RE TWO HALVES!

THIS IS GREAT! ONE OF ME CAN GO TO SCHOOL...

...AND THE OTHER'S FREE! NOBODY'LL SUSPECT!

I'LL GO TO THE ROBOTTING MATCH!
I'LL BE SLEEPING HERE!

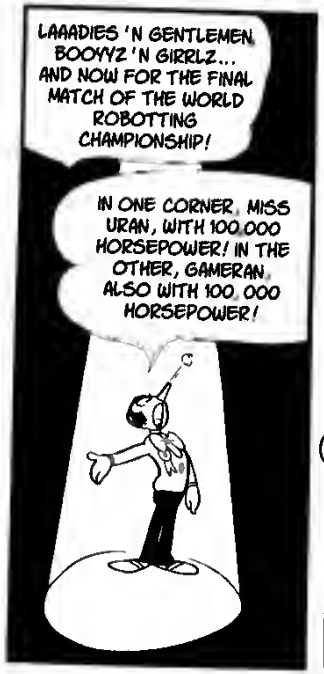

YAY! IT'S URAN!!
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, URAN!
YAY, URAN!
GIVE IT TO HIM, URAN!

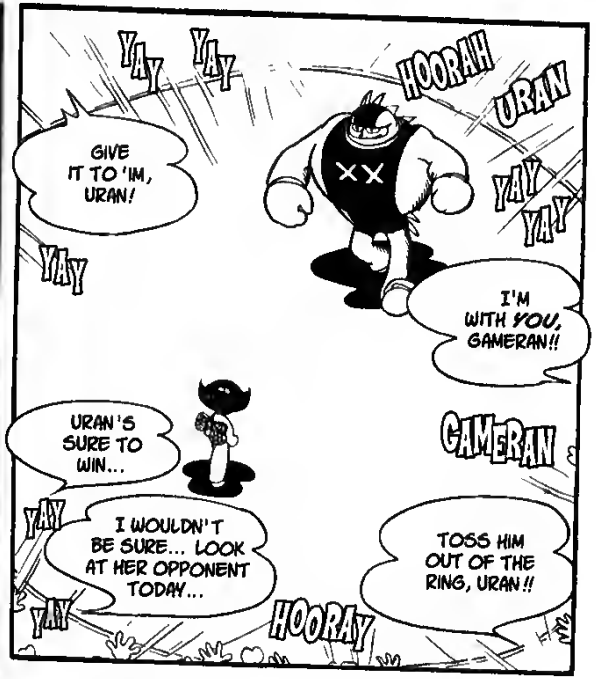

GAMERAN'S ALREADY IN HIS DRESSING ROOM...

HE'S TALKING ABOUT TAKING YOU PART...
DON'T WORRY! I'M NOT GONNA LOSE!

THE CROWD'S ROOTING FOR YOU, SO GO OUT THERE 'N WIN, URAN!
DON'T WORRY, I WILL!

GIVE IT TO HER, GAMERAN!


LAAADIES 'N GENTLEMEN BOOYYZ 'N GIRRLZ... AND NOW FOR THE FINAL MATCH OF THE WORLD ROBOTTING CHAMPIONSHIP!
IN ONE CORNER, MISS URAN, WITH 100,000 HORSEPOWER! IN THE OTHER, GAMERAN, ALSO WITH 100,000 HORSEPOWER!

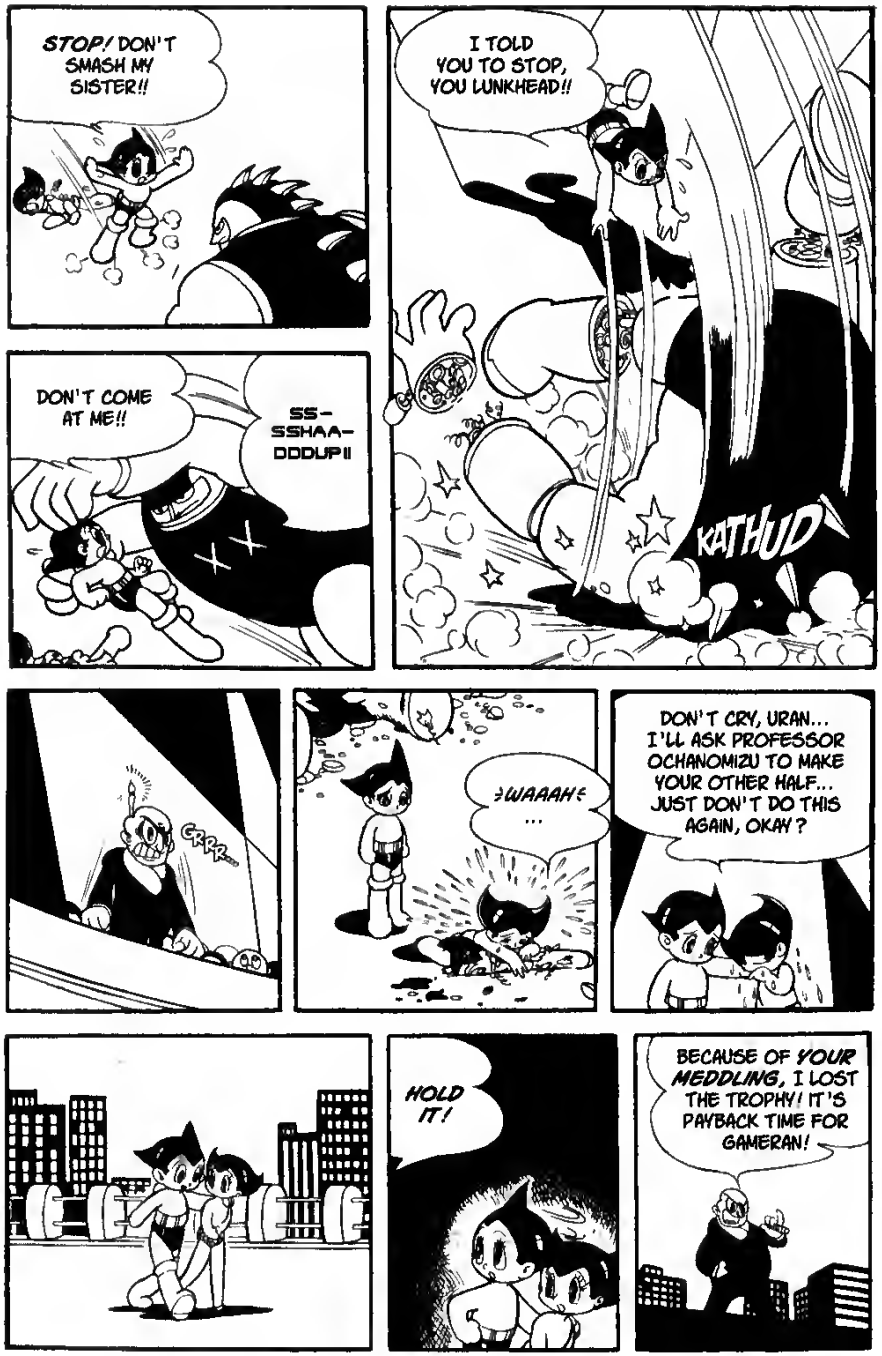

YAY
YAY
HOORAH
URAN
GIVE IT TO 'IM, URAN!
YAY
YAY
YAY
I'M WITH YOU, GAMERAN!!
URAN'S SURE TO WIN...
GAMERAN
YAY
I WOULDN'T BE SURE... LOOK AT HER OPPONENT TODAY...
TOSS HIM OUT OF THE RING, URAN!!
YAY
HOORAY

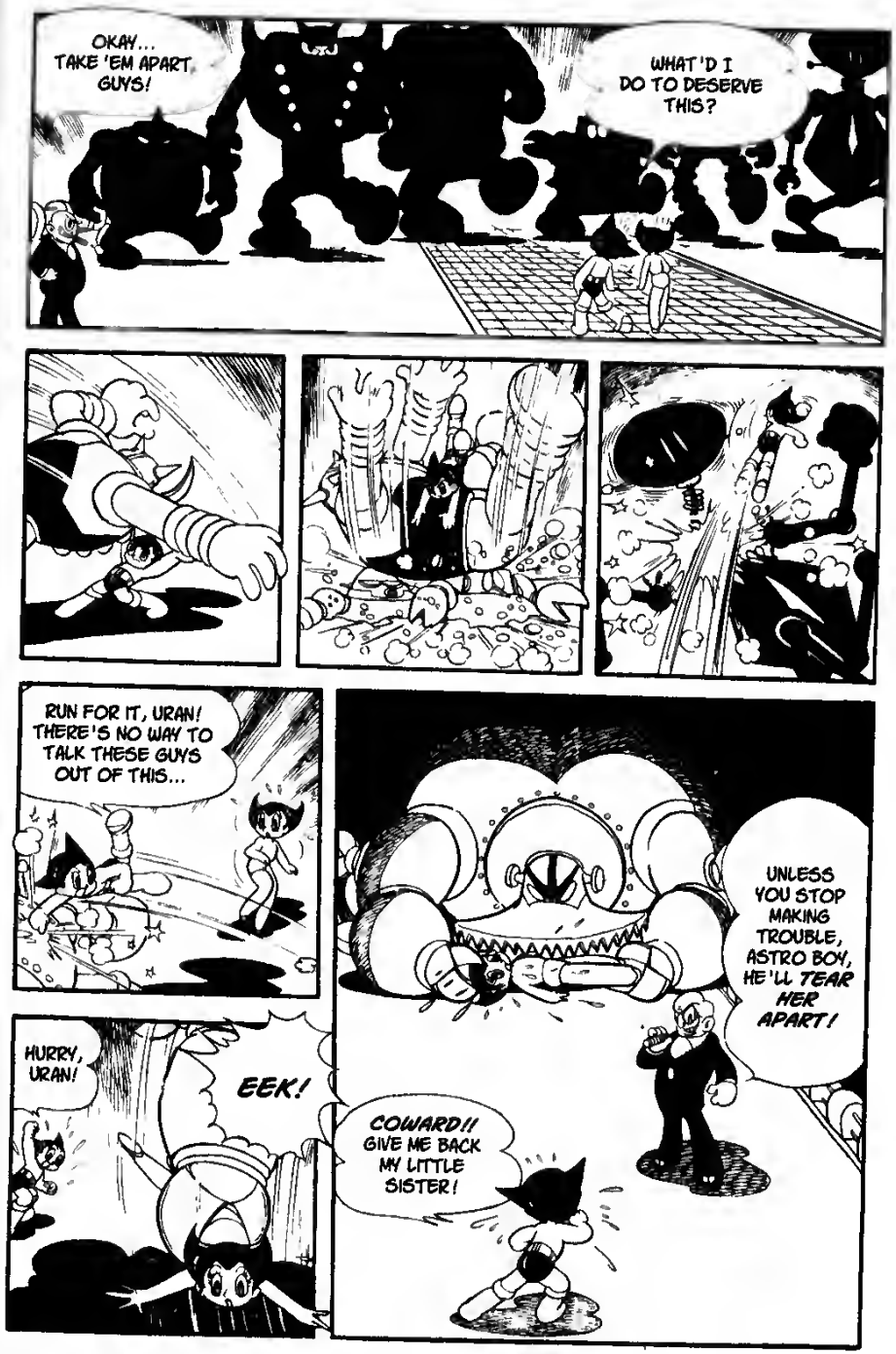
RRRING
'ELLO? OCHANOMIZU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HERE. AND TO WHOM AM I SPEAKING?
URAN?! WHY, SHE'S RESTING HERE. SHE'S GOT A HEADACHE.
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY! TELL HER THE 1/2 EXPERIMENT'S A FAILURE!
WHEN HER BODY SPLITS IN TWO, HER MENTAL AND PHYSICAL POWERS'LL ALL BE HALVED!
YAY YAY HOORAH
HOOORAH HORRAHAH
TELL HER SHE MUSTN'T GO TO THE ROBOT-TING MATCH!
YESSIR. I'LL LET HER KNOW AS SOON AS SHE GETS UP...
HURRY, THERE'S NOT A SECOND TO LOSE!
HMPH!... WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, ORDERING A TEACHER AROUND?

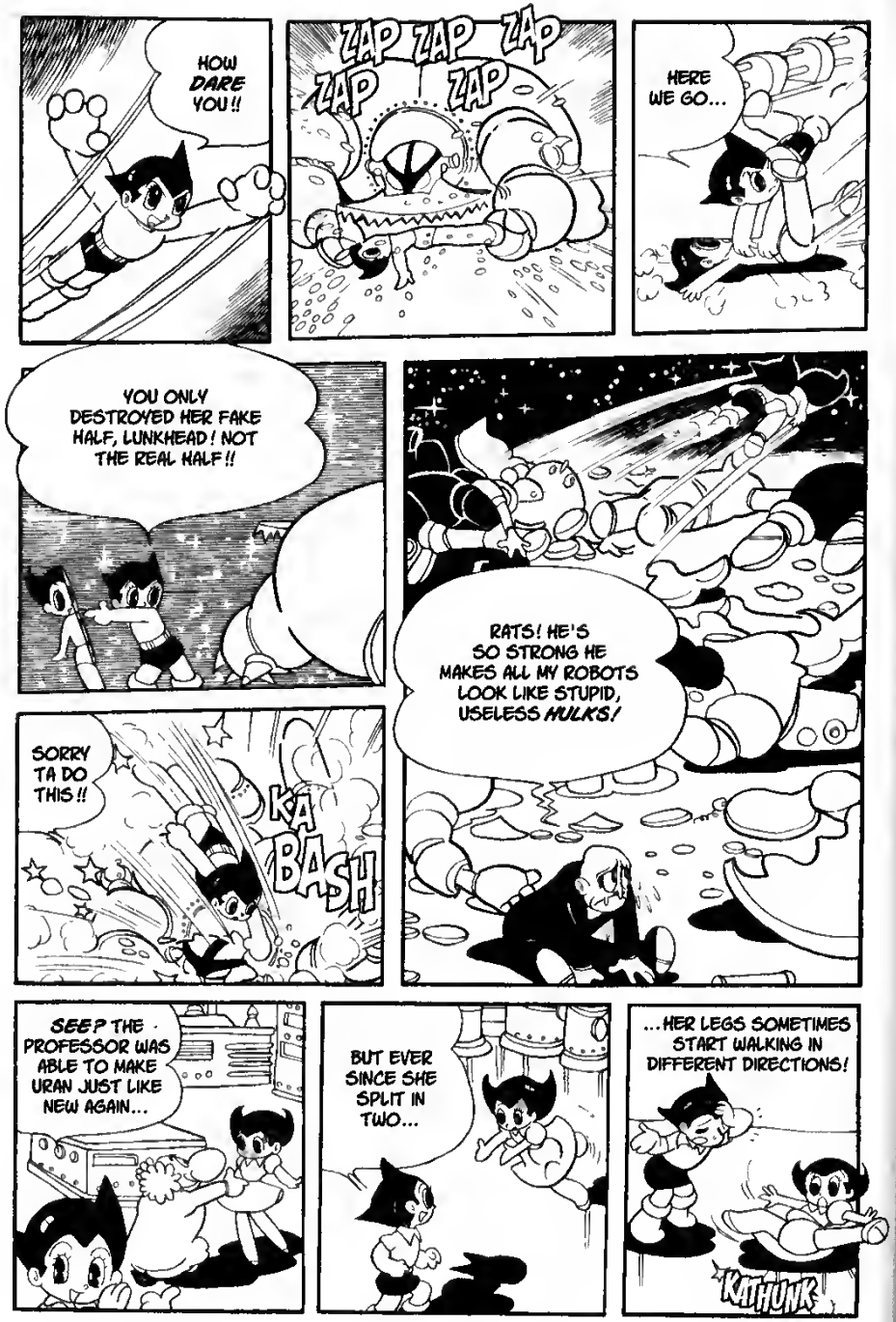
DON'T PULL ANY PUNCHES, GAMERAN! SMASH HER!
BAM
WHOOPS!
THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN!
THAT'S ODD... GAMERAN AND URAN WERE S'POSED TO HAVE THE SAME AMOUNT OF POWER...
WAY TO GO!!
YAY YAY WHOA! STOP! YAY
THEY SAY URAN'S GOT 100,000 HORSEPOWER, BUT SHE'S REALLY A WIMP!
GIVE IT TO HER, GAMERAN! SHOW US HOW WEAK SHE REALLY IS!
GOSH, I CAN'T GET ANY POWER....
OWWW! THAT HURT!!

OUCH!
EEEK! STOP!
THIS IS REALLY WEIRD...
GUGUGUOOH!
KWAP
WAY TA GO, GAMERAN!!
SNAP
HA HA! THE TROPHY'S AS GOOD AS MINE NOW!
THWACK
STOP! STOP!
STOP, GAMERAN! YOU'LL HURT THE POOR THING!
DON'T BE SO CRUEL, GAMERAN!
GAME-RAN'S OVER-DOING IT!
THE AUDIENCE HAS COME TO THEIR FEET AT THE SIGHT OF THIS CRUEL SPECTACLE...
URAN!!
URAN! WHO'S THAT ON THE TV?

.....
.....
SO WHICH IS THE REAL URAN? THE ONE ON TV OR THE ONE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME ?!!
THEY'RE BOTH ME, ASTRO...
B-BUT...
Y-YOU MEAN YOU HAD THAT OLD MAN TURN YOU INTO TWO HALVES ?
...AND YOU KEPT IT A SECRET FROM ME, YOUR OWN BROTHER, DIDN'T YOU ?! WHY, URAN !? WHY ?!
I'M SORRY, ASTRO... I'M SORRY...
LISTEN, SILLY! LOOK AT THE TV! IT'S TERRIBLE!
WE'VE GOTTA GET YOU TO THE HALL RIGHT AWAY, SO YOU CAN RETURN TO YOUR NORMAL BODY...
EEEK!
LET'S GO!
UH OH... WE'RE TOO LATE!

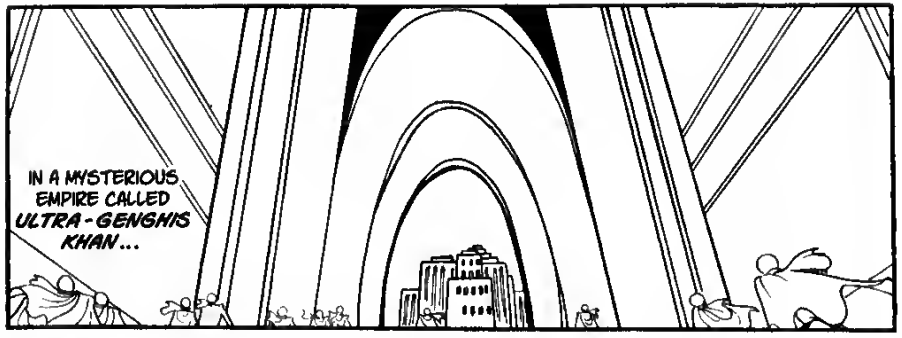

STOP! DON'T SMASH MY SISTER!!
I TOLD YOU TO STOP, YOU LUNKHEAD!!
KATHUD
DON'T COME AT ME!!
SS-SSHAA-DDDUP!!
GRRR...
WAAAH
...
DON'T CRY, URAN... I'LL ASK PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU TO MAKE YOUR OTHER HALF... JUST DON'T DO THIS AGAIN, OKAY?
HOLD IT!
BECAUSE OF YOUR MEDDLING, I LOST THE TROPHY! IT'S PAYBACK TIME FOR GAMERAN!

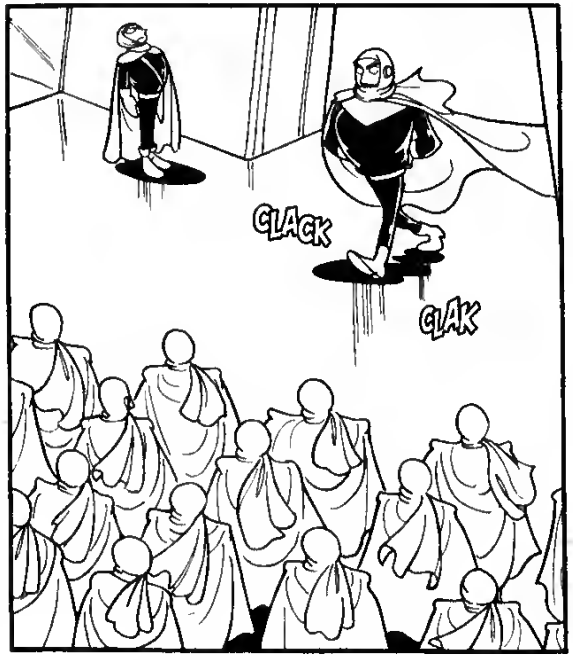

OKAY... TAKE 'EM APART, GUYS!
WHAT'D I DO TO DESERVE THIS?
RUN FOR IT, URAN! THERE'S NO WAY TO TALK THESE GUYS OUT OF THIS...
HURRY, URAN!
EEK!
UNLESS YOU STOP MAKING TROUBLE, ASTRO BOY, HE'LL TEAR HER APART!
COWARD!! GIVE ME BACK MY LITTLE SISTER!

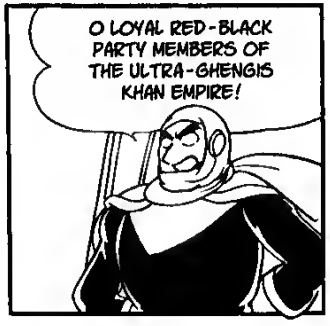

HOW DARE YOU!!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
HERE WE GO...
YOU ONLY DESTROYED HER FAKE HALF, LUNKHEAD! NOT THE REAL HALF!!
RATS! HE'S SO STRONG HE MAKES ALL MY ROBOTS LOOK LIKE STUPID, USELESS MULKS!
SORRY TA DO THIS!!
KA BASH
SEE? THE PROFESSOR WAS ABLE TO MAKE URAN JUST LIKE NEW AGAIN...
BUT EVER SINCE SHE SPLIT IN TWO...
...HER LEGS SOMETIMES START WALKING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS!
KATHUNK

DEMON BEES

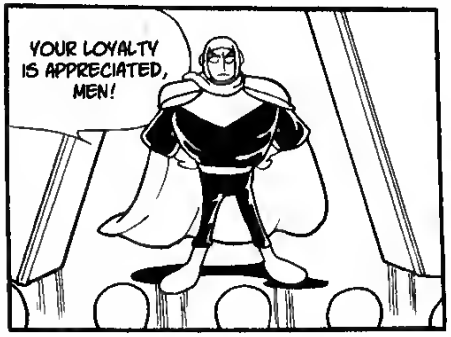
First serialized from March to June 1963 in *Shonen* magazine.


IN A MYSTERIOUS EMPIRE CALLED ULTRA-GENGHIS KHAN...


CLACK
CLAK


O LOYAL RED-BLACK PARTY MEMBERS OF THE ULTRA-GHENGIS KHAN EMPIRE!

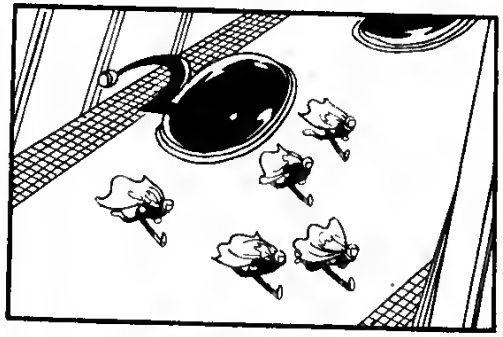
HAIL TO THE EMPEROR! LONG LIVE THE ULTRA GENGHIS KHAN EMPIRE!

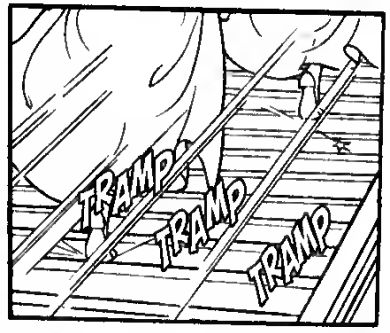

YOUR LOYALTY IS APPRECIATED, MEN!

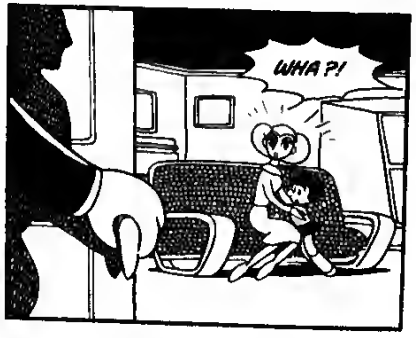
BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO GO TO WORK!

READY TO DEPART ON TODAY'S MISSION, SIR!

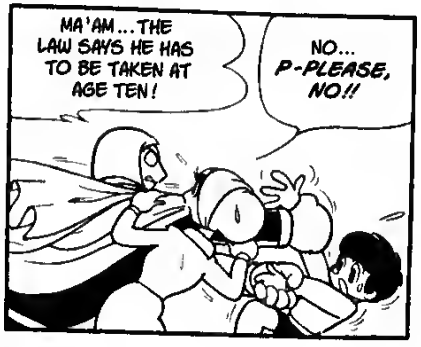
ROAR
ROAR

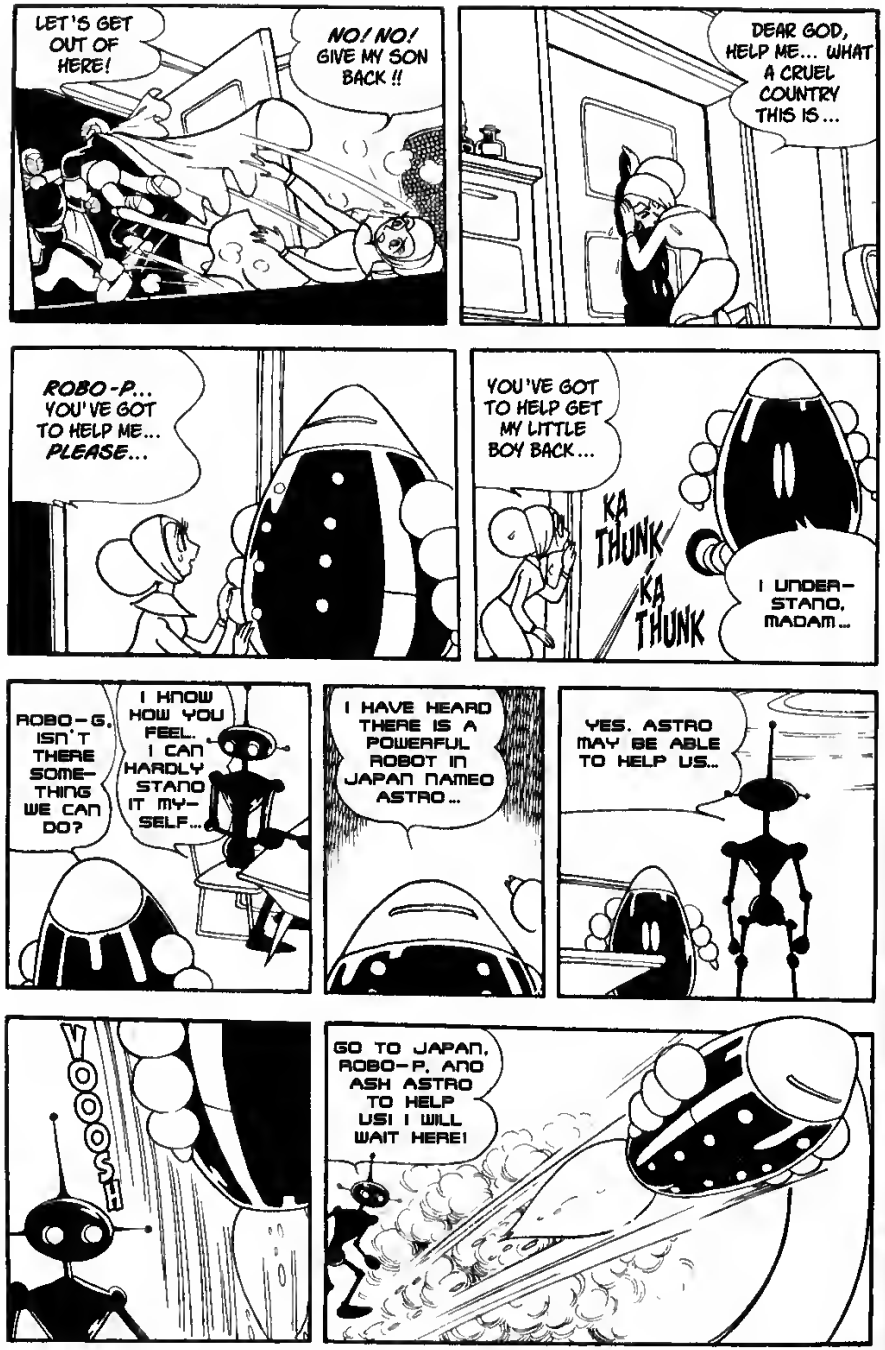


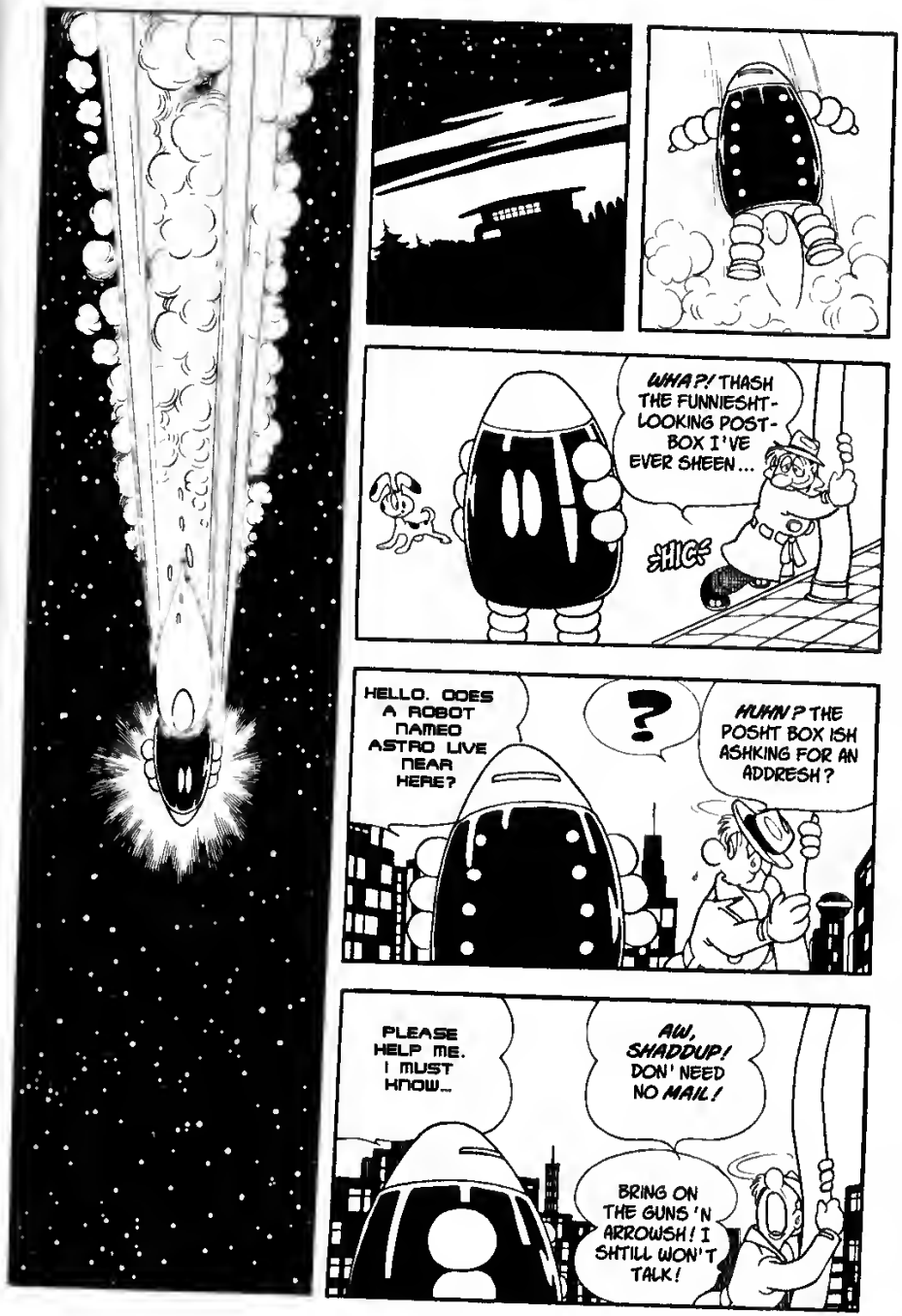

TRAMP
TRAMP
TRAMP

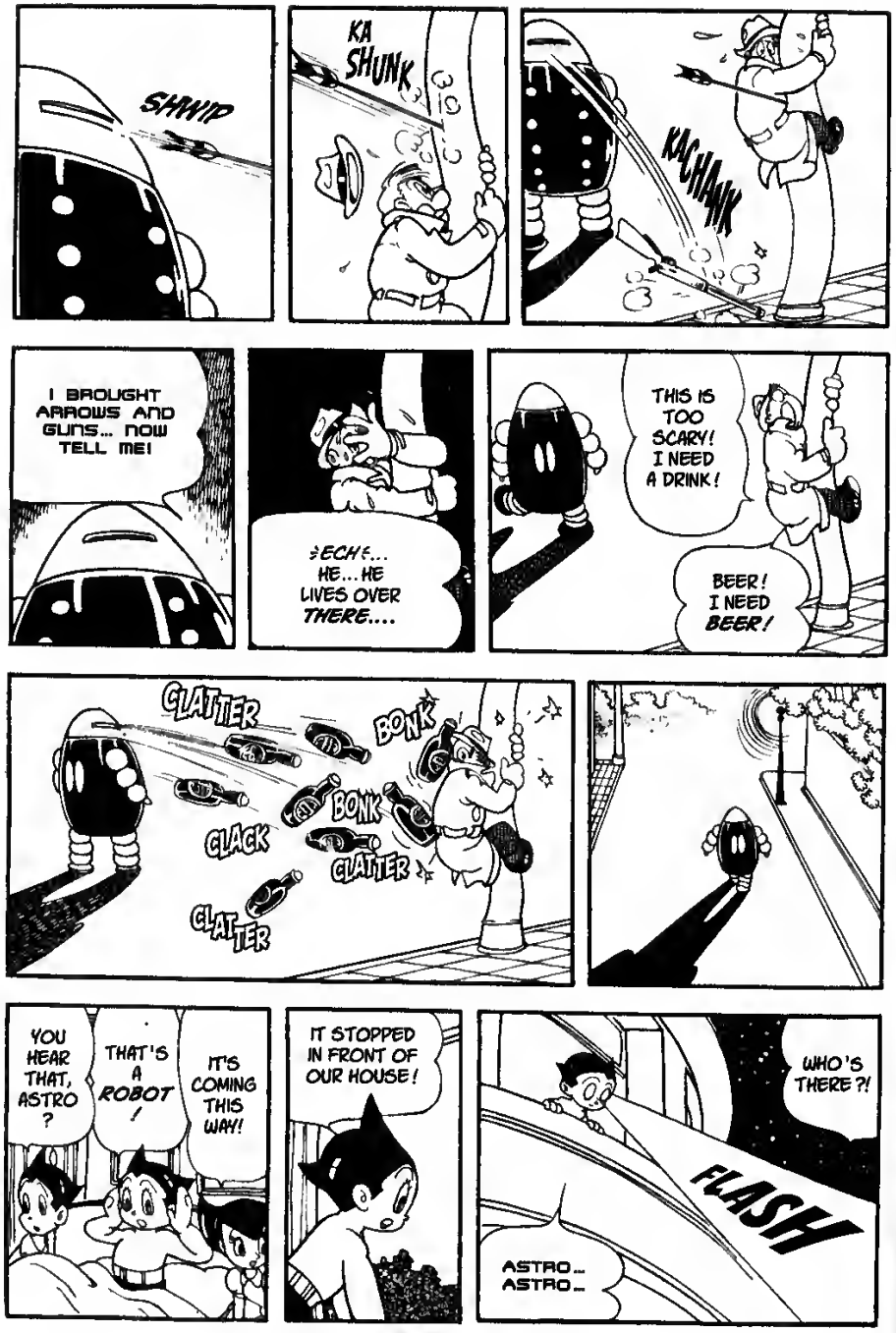

WHA P!

WE HAVE COME TO TAKE AWAY YOUR SON...
NO! PLEASE... NOT THAT...

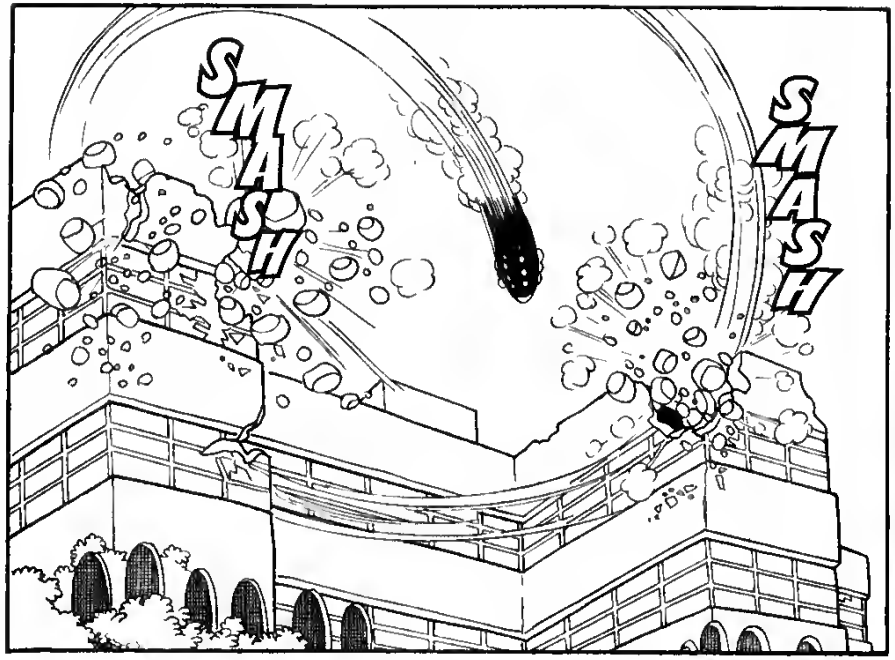

MA'AM... THE LAW SAYS HE HAS TO BE TAKEN AT AGE TEN!
NO... P-PLEASE, NO!!

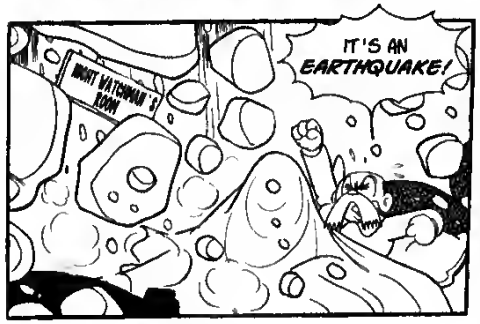

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
NO! NO! GIVE MY SON BACK !!
DEAR GOD, HELP ME... WHAT A CRUEL COUNTRY THIS IS...
ROBO-P... YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME... PLEASE...
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP GET MY LITTLE BOY BACK...
KA THUNK
KA THUNK
I UNDER-STAND, MADAM...
ROBO-G, ISN'T THERE SOME-THING WE CAN DO?
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. I CAN HARDLY STAND IT MY-SELF...
I HAVE HEARD THERE IS A POWERFUL ROBOT IN JAPAN NAMED ASTRO...
YES. ASTRO MAY BE ABLE TO HELP US...
VOOOSH
GO TO JAPAN, ROBO-P, AND ASK ASTRO TO HELP US! I WILL WAIT HERE!

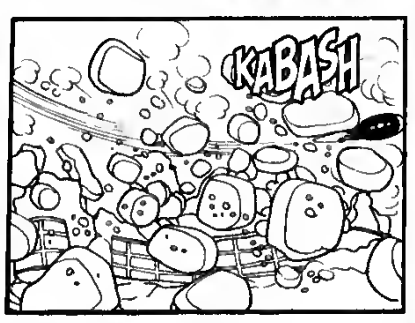

WHA?! THASH THE FUNNIESHT-LOOKING POST-BOX I'VE EVER SHEEN...
SNIFF
HELLO. DOES A ROBOT NAMED ASTRO LIVE NEAR HERE?
?
HUHN? THE POSHT BOX ISH ASHKING FOR AN ADDRESH?
PLEASE HELP ME. I MUST KNOW...
AW, SHADDUP! DON' NEED NO MAIL!
BRING ON THE GUNS 'N ARROWSH! I SHTILL WON'T TALK!

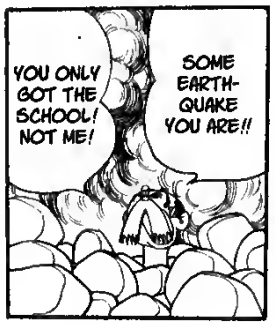

SHWIP
KA SHUNK
KACHANK
I BROUGHT ARROWS AND GUNS... NOW TELL ME!
ECH!... HE... HE LIVES OVER THERE....
THIS IS TOO SCARY! I NEED A DRINK!
BEER! I NEED BEER!
CLATTER
BONK
CLACK
BONK
CLATTER
CLATTER
YOU HEAR THAT, ASTRO?
THAT'S A ROBOT!
IT'S COMING THIS WAY!
IT STOPPED IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE!
WHO'S THERE?!
FLASH
ASTRO... ASTRO...

I NEED YOUR HELP! MY MISTRESS' SON WAS ABDUCTED!
ABDUCTED? YOU SHOULD CALL THE POLICE, NOT ME!!
I HAVE COME FROM ULTRA-GENGHIS KHAN!
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A PLACE...
I CAME FOR YOU!
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T HELP! THE ROBOT LAW SAYS I CAN'T GO OVERSEAS WITHOUT PERMISSION!
PLEASE... I AM BEGGING YOU! YOU MUST COME WITH ME!
GOSH, WHAT SHOULD I DO? I'VE GOT A TEST TOMORROW AT SCHOOL, TOO.
SCHOOL? WHERE IS YOUR SCHOOL?
WHAT THE --?!
DOMOKOZO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

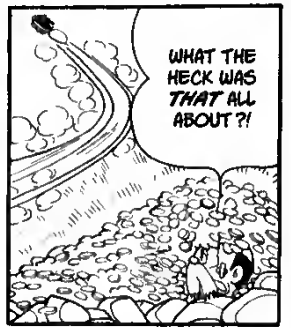

SMASH
SMASH

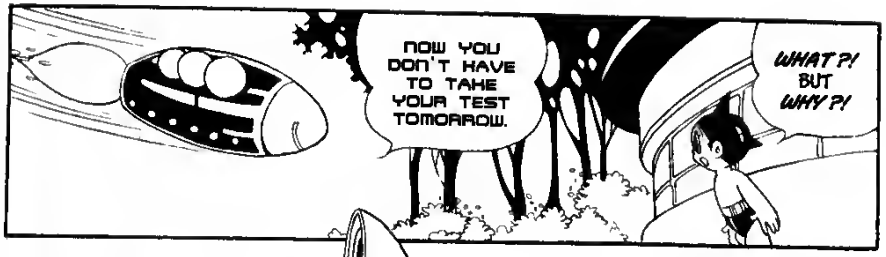

NIGHT WATCHMAN'S ROOM
IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE!


KABASH

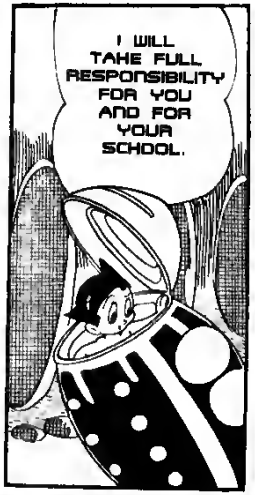

YOU ONLY GOT THE SCHOOL! NOT ME!
SOME EARTH-QUAKE YOU ARE!!

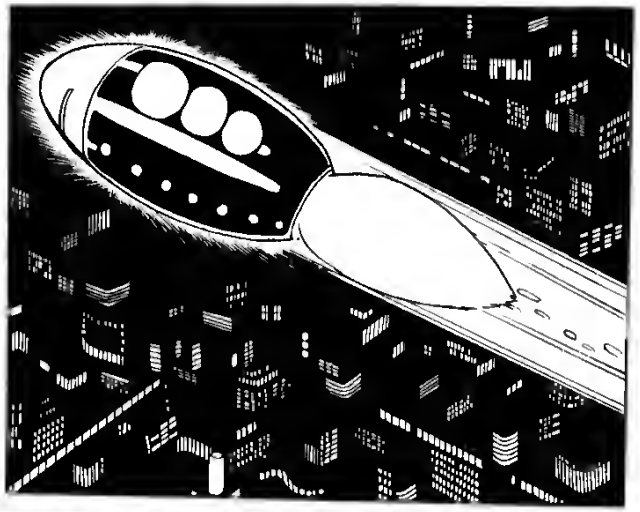
YOU WILL REBUILD THIS OLD SCHOOL. HERE, USE THIS MONEY TO BUILD A BETTER ONE!


WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!

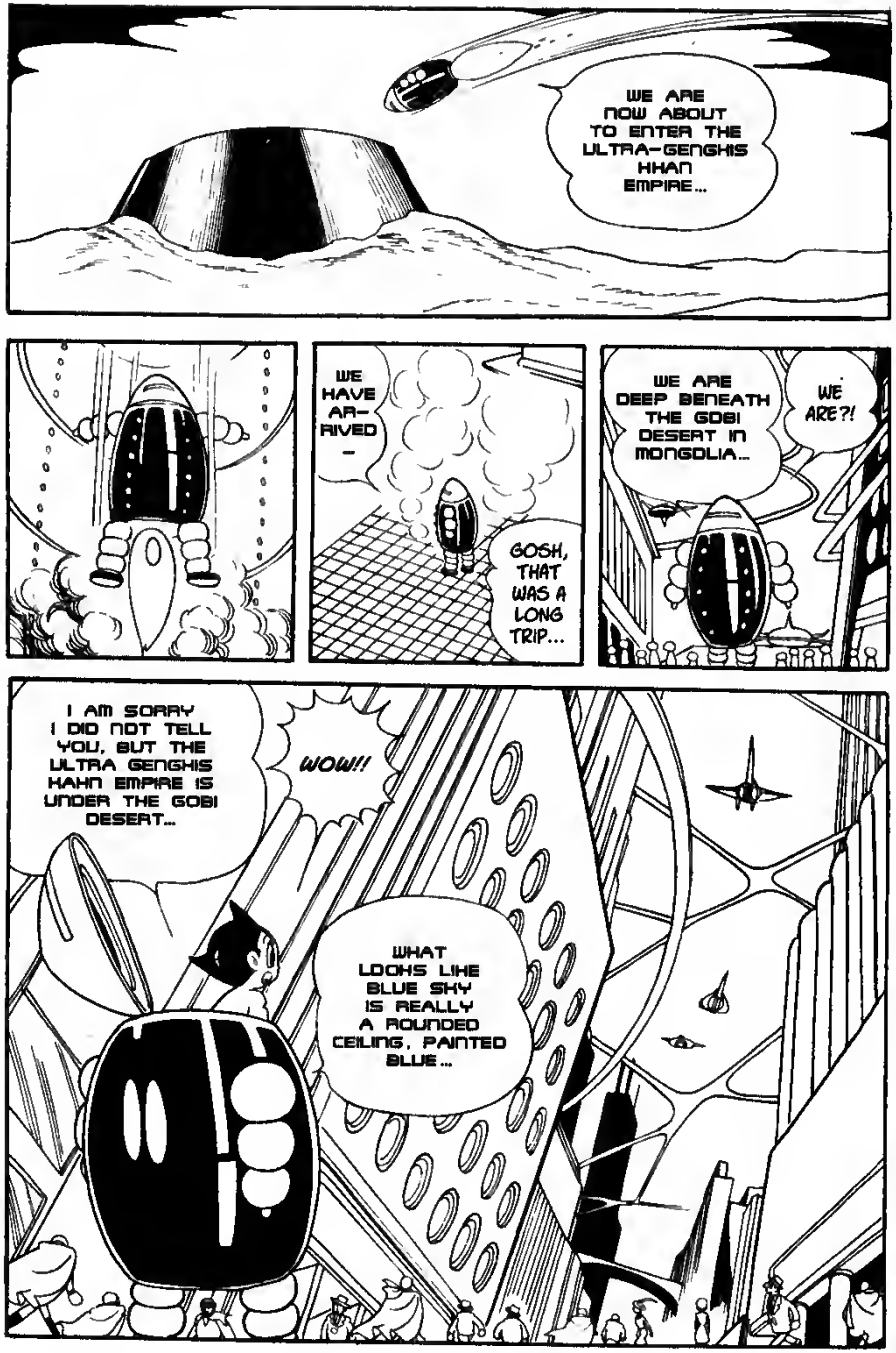

NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE YOUR TEST TOMORROW.
WHAT?! BUT WHY?!

I SMASHED YOUR SCHOOL... BUT DON'T WORRY...
CLIMB INSIDE ME...
YOU GONNA BE OKAY, ASTRO?

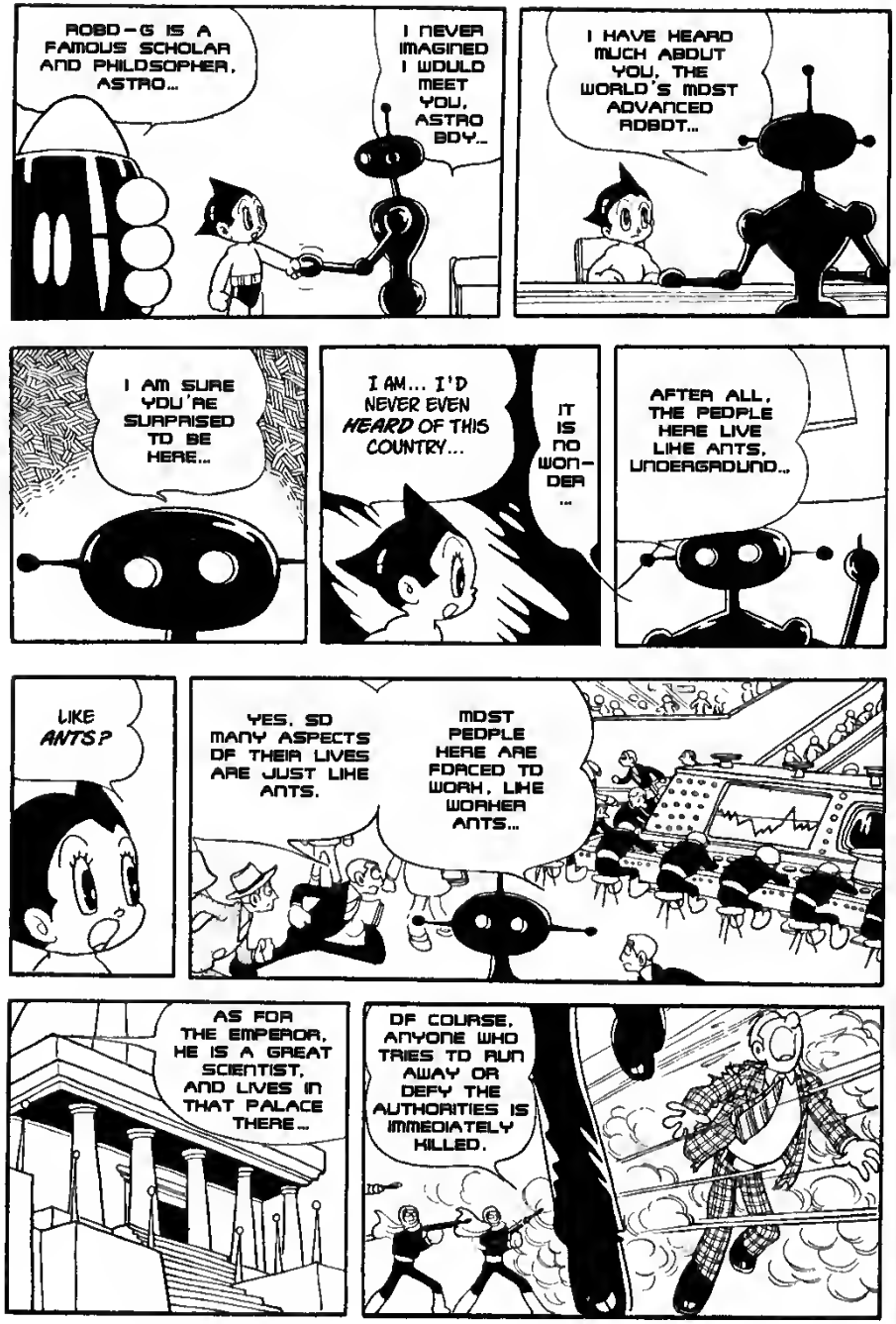

I WILL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOU AND FOR YOUR SCHOOL.



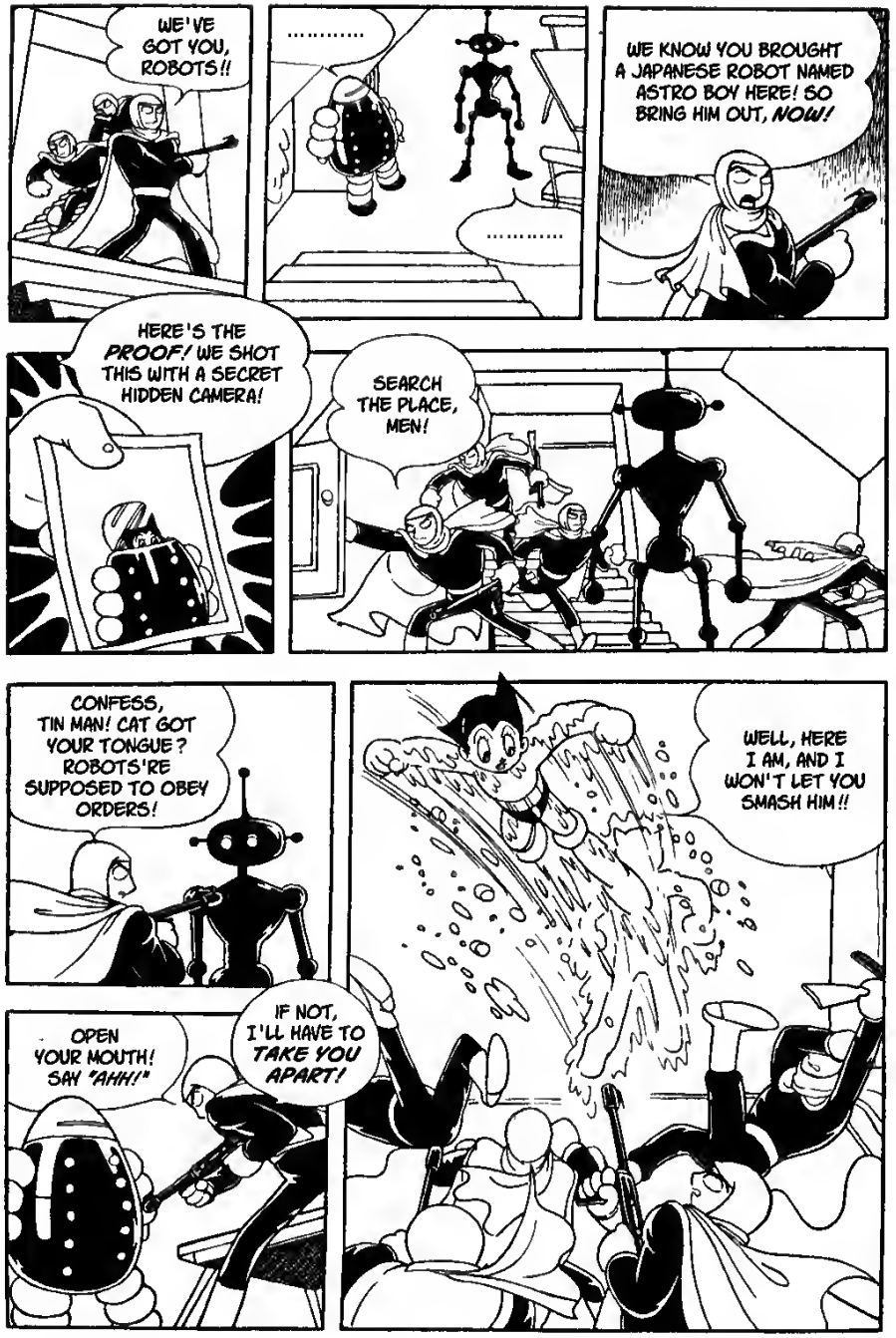
WE ARE ALMOST AT OUR DESTINATION ...


WE ARE NOW ABOUT TO ENTER THE ULTRA-GENGHIS KHAN EMPIRE...
WE HAVE ARRIVED -
GOSH, THAT WAS A LONG TRIP...
WE ARE DEEP BENEATH THE GOBI DESERT IN MONGOLIA...
WE ARE?!
I AM SORRY I DID NOT TELL YOU, BUT THE ULTRA GENGHIS KAHN EMPIRE IS UNDER THE GOBI DESERT...
WOW!!
WHAT LOOKS LIKE BLUE SKY IS REALLY A ROUNDED CEILING, PAINTED BLUE...

WOW! IT'S LOOKS JUST LIKE ABOVE GROUND, ONLY IT'S MORE AMAZING...
SHHH... THE MEN FROM THE RED-BLACK PARTY ARE PASSING...
TRAMP TRAMP TRAMP
TRAMP TRAMP TRAMP TRAMP
WHAT IS THE RED-BLACK PARTY, ANYWAY?
SHH... THEY'RE THE DAIMA PALACE GUARDS...
ROBO-G. I HAVE BROUGHT ASTRO BOY WITH ME...
AH, ASTRO BOY... COME IN...
LET'S GO TO ROBO-G'S PLACE. WE CAN TALK FREELY THERE...
S... SURE...


ROBO-G IS A FAMOUS SCHOLAR AND PHILOSOPHER, ASTRO...
I NEVER IMAGINED I WOULD MEET YOU, ASTRO BOY...
I HAVE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU, THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED ROBOT...
I AM SURE YOU'RE SURPRISED TO BE HERE...
I AM... I'D NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THIS COUNTRY...
IT IS NO WONDER...
AFTER ALL, THE PEOPLE HERE LIVE LIKE ANTS, UNDERGROUND...
LIKE ANTS?
YES, SO MANY ASPECTS OF THEIR LIVES ARE JUST LIKE ANTS.
MOST PEOPLE HERE ARE FORCED TO WORK, LIKE WORKER ANTS...
AS FOR THE EMPEROR, HE IS A GREAT SCIENTIST, AND LIVES IN THAT PALACE THERE...
OF COURSE, ANYONE WHO TRIES TO RUN AWAY OR DEFY THE AUTHORITIES IS IMMEDIATELY KILLED.

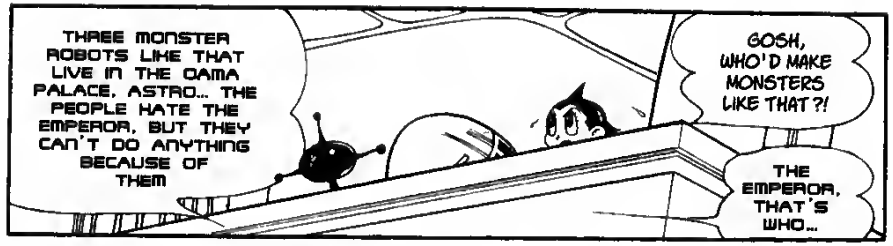
B-BUT THAT'S AWFUL... WHY?
IT IS BECAUSE OF THE RED-BLACK PARTY, ASTRO BOY...
BUZZZ
WHAT'S THAT?!
BUZZZ
WE HAVE BEEN DETECTED BY THE PARTY TROOPERS!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
I KNOW! QUICK, HIDE ASTRO BOY!
USE OUR NORMAL METHOD!
VRRRRT
BZZZT
YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR AWHILE...
BLAAT
TRAMP TRAMP TRAMP


WE'VE GOT YOU, ROBOTS!!
.....
.....
WE KNOW YOU BROUGHT A JAPANESE ROBOT NAMED ASTRO BOY HERE! SO BRING HIM OUT, NOW!
HERE'S THE PROOF! WE SHOT THIS WITH A SECRET HIDDEN CAMERA!
SEARCH THE PLACE, MEN!
CONFESS, TIN MAN! CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE? ROBOTS'RE SUPPOSED TO OBEY ORDERS!
WELL, HERE I AM, AND I WON'T LET YOU SMASH HIM!!
OPEN YOUR MOUTH! SAY "AHH!"
IF NOT, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU APART!

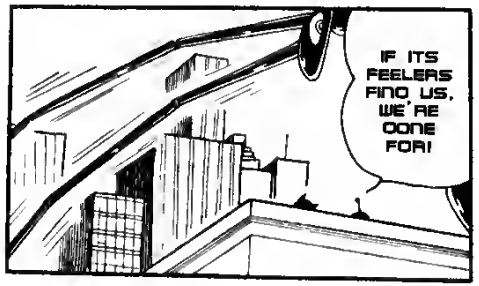
YIKES!
CRUMPLE
AIEE!
KACHANK
KACHANK
SWAP
HOW 'BOUT THAT?!
TRAITOR! DO YOU KNOW THE PUNISHMENT FOR ROBOTS WHO DEFY HUMANS?!
YOU BAD GUYS JUST GOT WHAT YOU DESERVE, THAT'S ALL!
BAD GUYS? ≠HMPH≠... WE'LL TEACH YOU LATER WHO'S GOOD AND WHO'S BAD AROUND HERE....

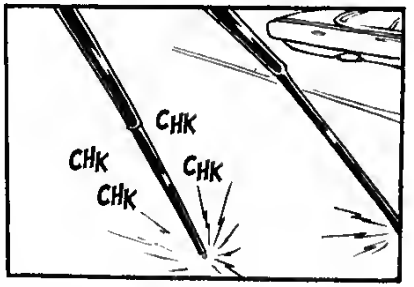
ENOUGH GRUMBLING! TIME FOR YOU GUYS TO GO OUTSIDE!
HEY, LOOKEE!! THEY'RE HOLDING HANDS!!
SHADDUP, KID!!
IT IS NOT GOOD TO ANGER THE RED-BLACK PARTY, ASTRO BOY...
BUT IF I HADN'T DONE THAT, YOU WOULD'VE BEEN SMASHED!
IT'S IMPORTANT TO TEACH PEOPLE LIKE THAT A LESSON!
WHA?!
HUMMMMM
I HEAR A BOMB!
KABOOOOM

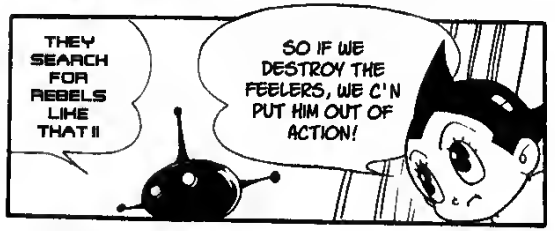
WOW, THAT WAS CLOSE! MUST BE THE RED-BLACK PARTY TRYING TO GET REVENGE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW HORRIBLE THIS GOVERNMENT IS! WHY DOESN'T ANYONE PROTEST?
SOMEONE OUGHTA JUST TOPPLE THE BAD GUYS!
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THE TERRIBLE POWER OF THE DAMA PALACE, ASTRO!
KASHUNK
KASHUNK
LOOK! A DAMA PALACE GUARD IS LOOKING FOR US!
SHHH... BE QUIET!

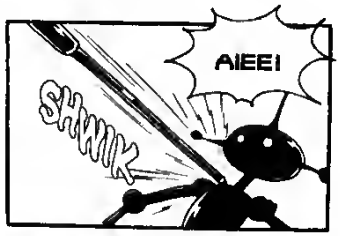

THREE MONSTER ROBOTS LIKE THAT LIVE IN THE OAMA PALACE, ASTRO... THE PEOPLE HATE THE EMPEROR, BUT THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING BECAUSE OF THEM
GOSH, WHO'D MAKE MONSTERS LIKE THAT?!
THE EMPEROR, THAT'S WHO...

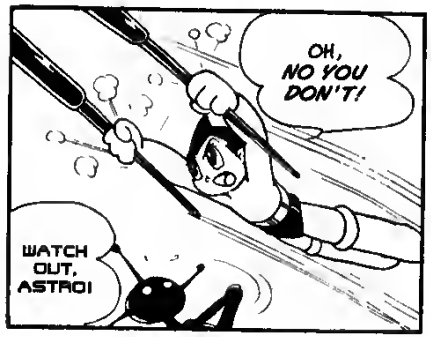
SHWWWHIP

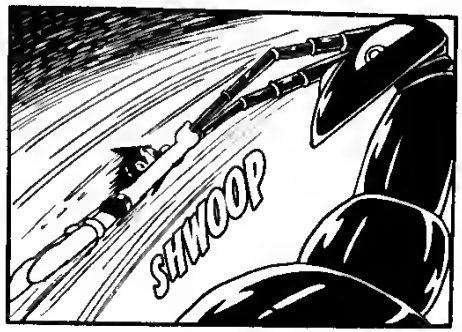

IF ITS FEELERS FIND US, WE'RE DONE FOR!

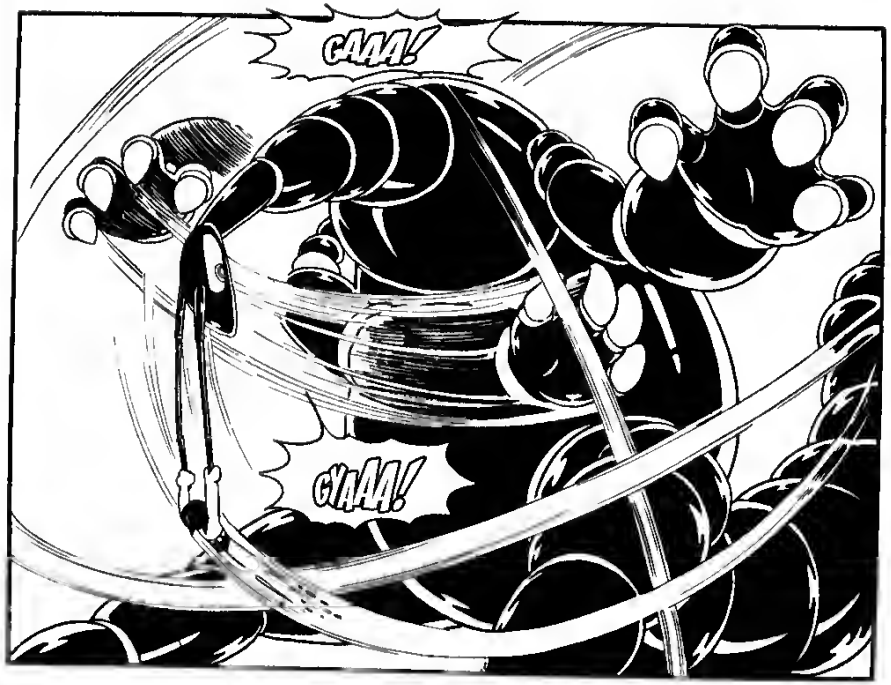

CHK
CHK
CHK
CHK

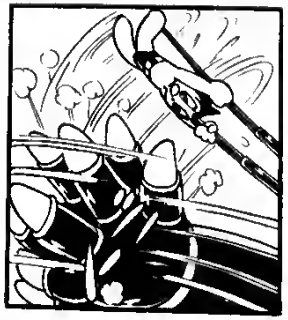

THEY SEARCH FOR REBELS LIKE THAT!!
SO IF WE DESTROY THE FEELERS, WE C'N PUT HIM OUT OF ACTION!


AIEE!
SHWIK


OH, NO YOU DON'T!
WATCH OUT, ASTRO!

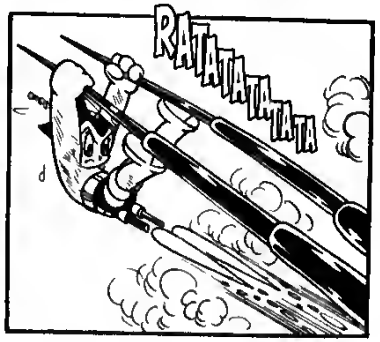

SHWOOP


CAAA!
GYAAA!

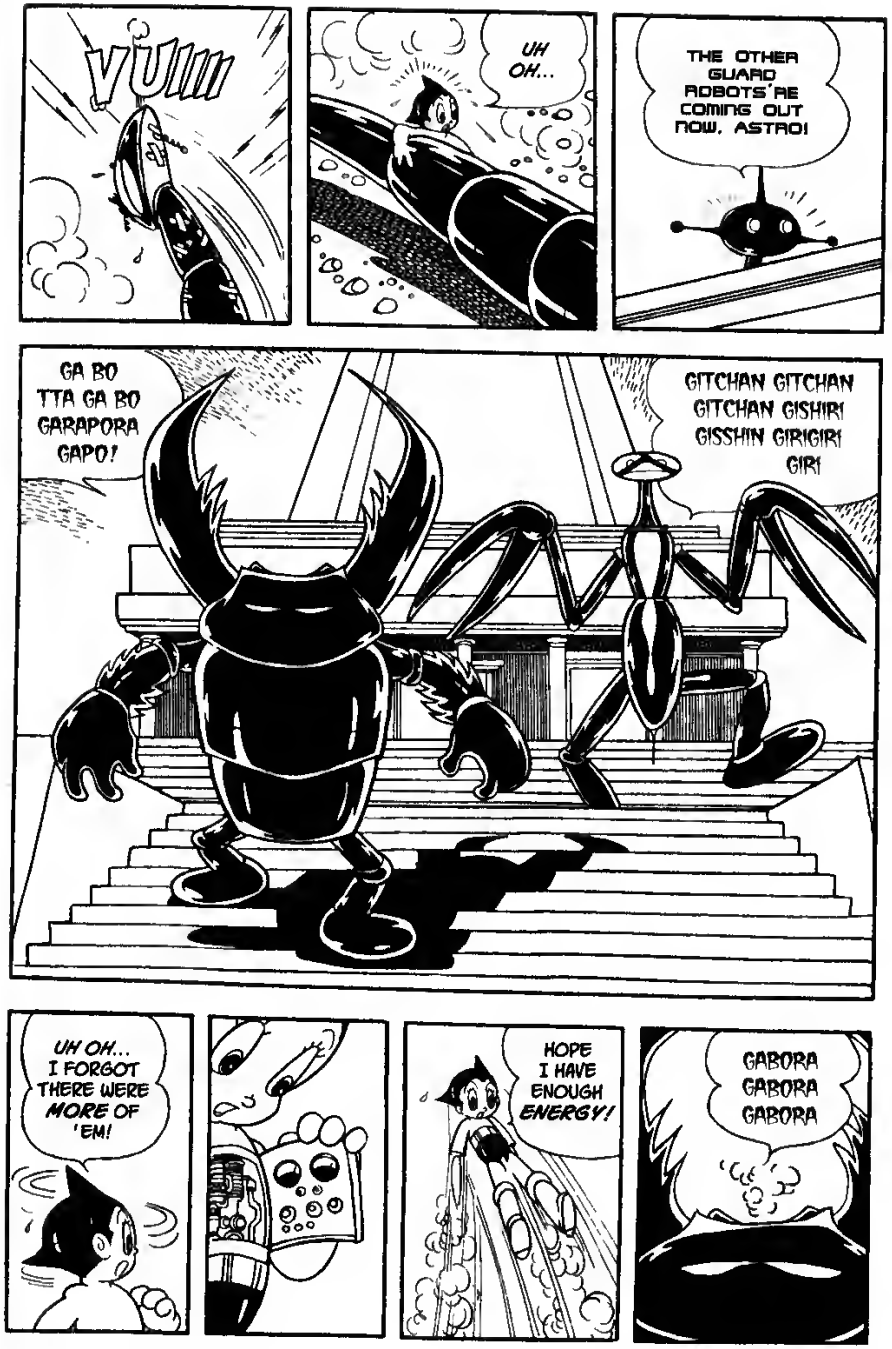


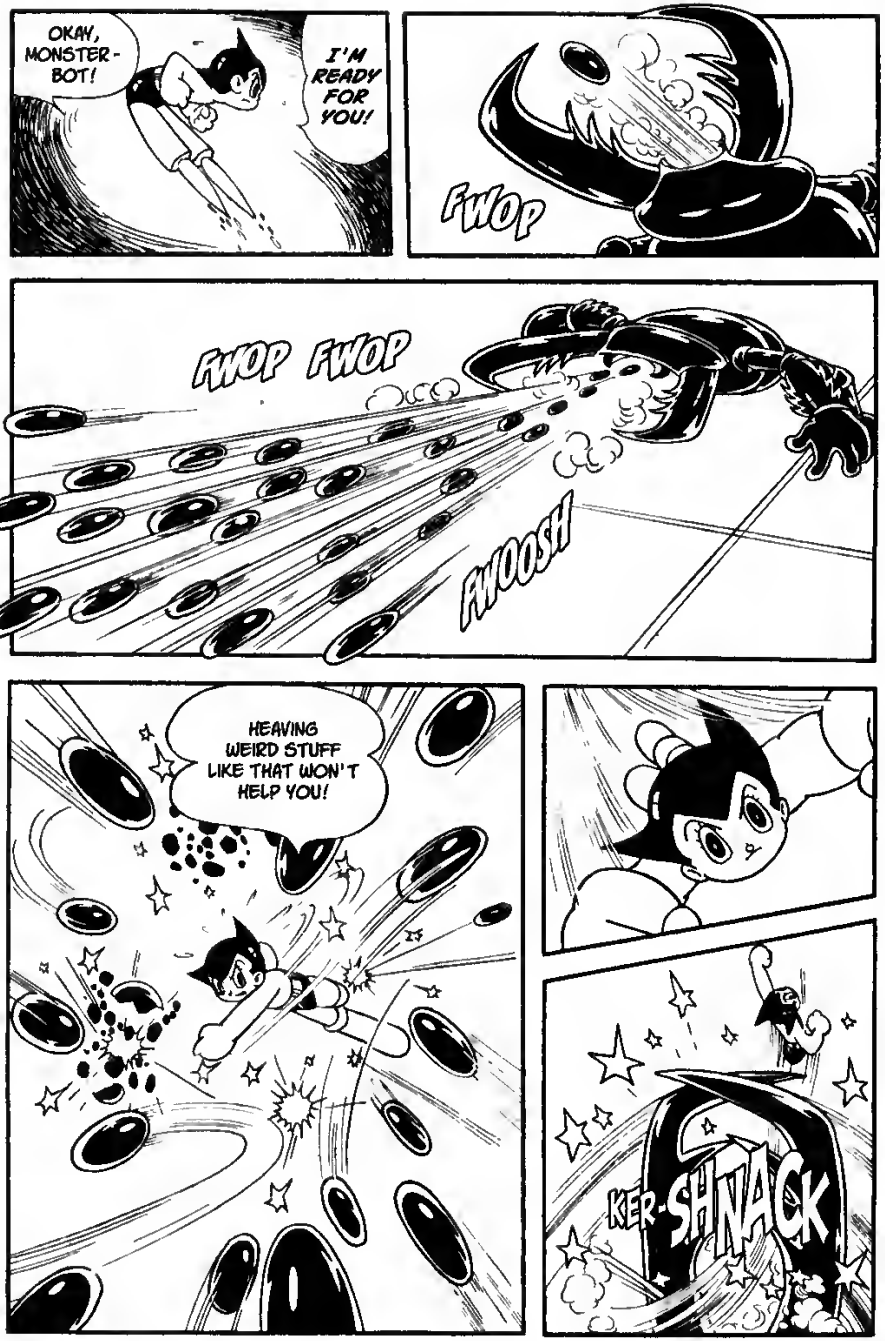
SMASH

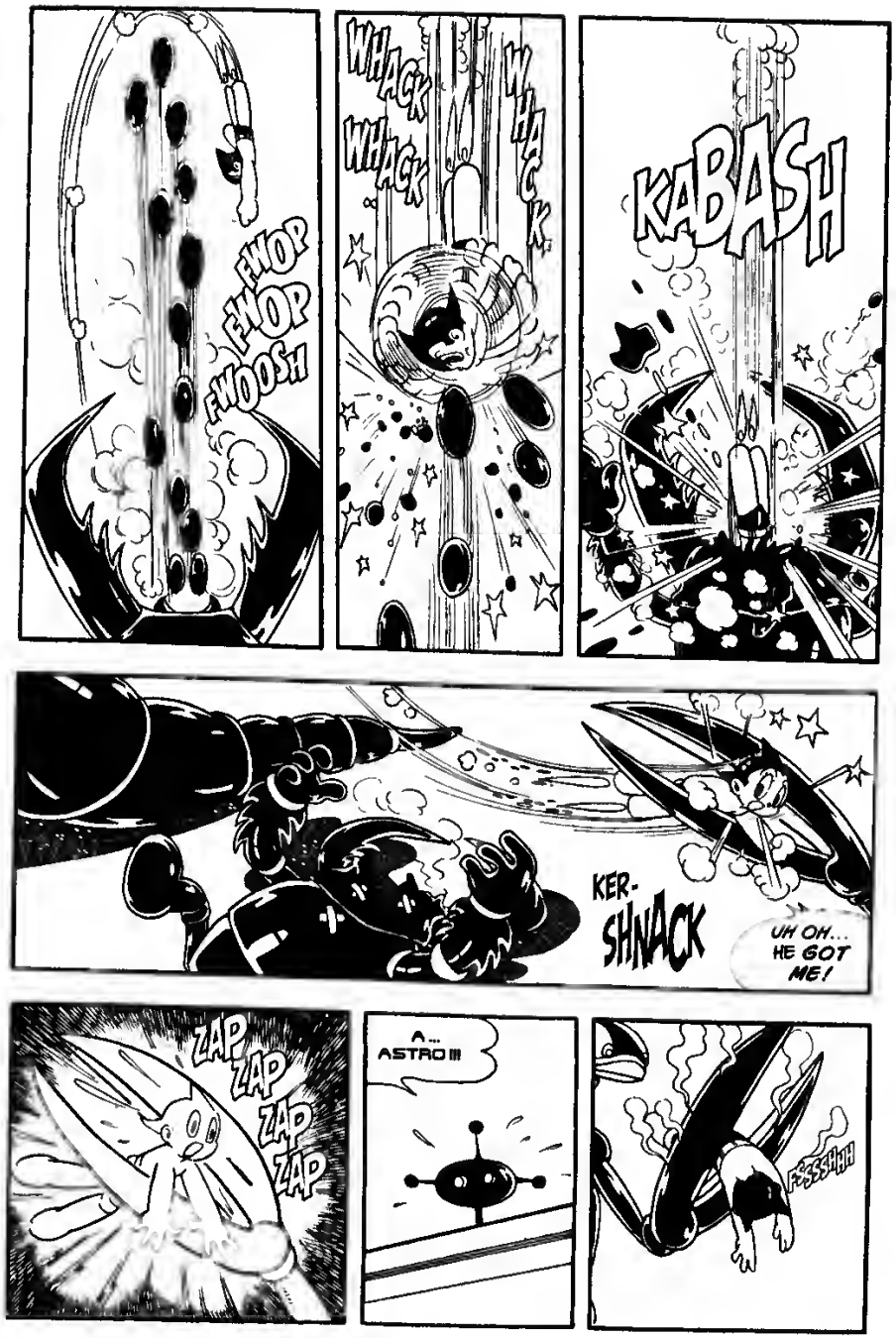
KER BASH

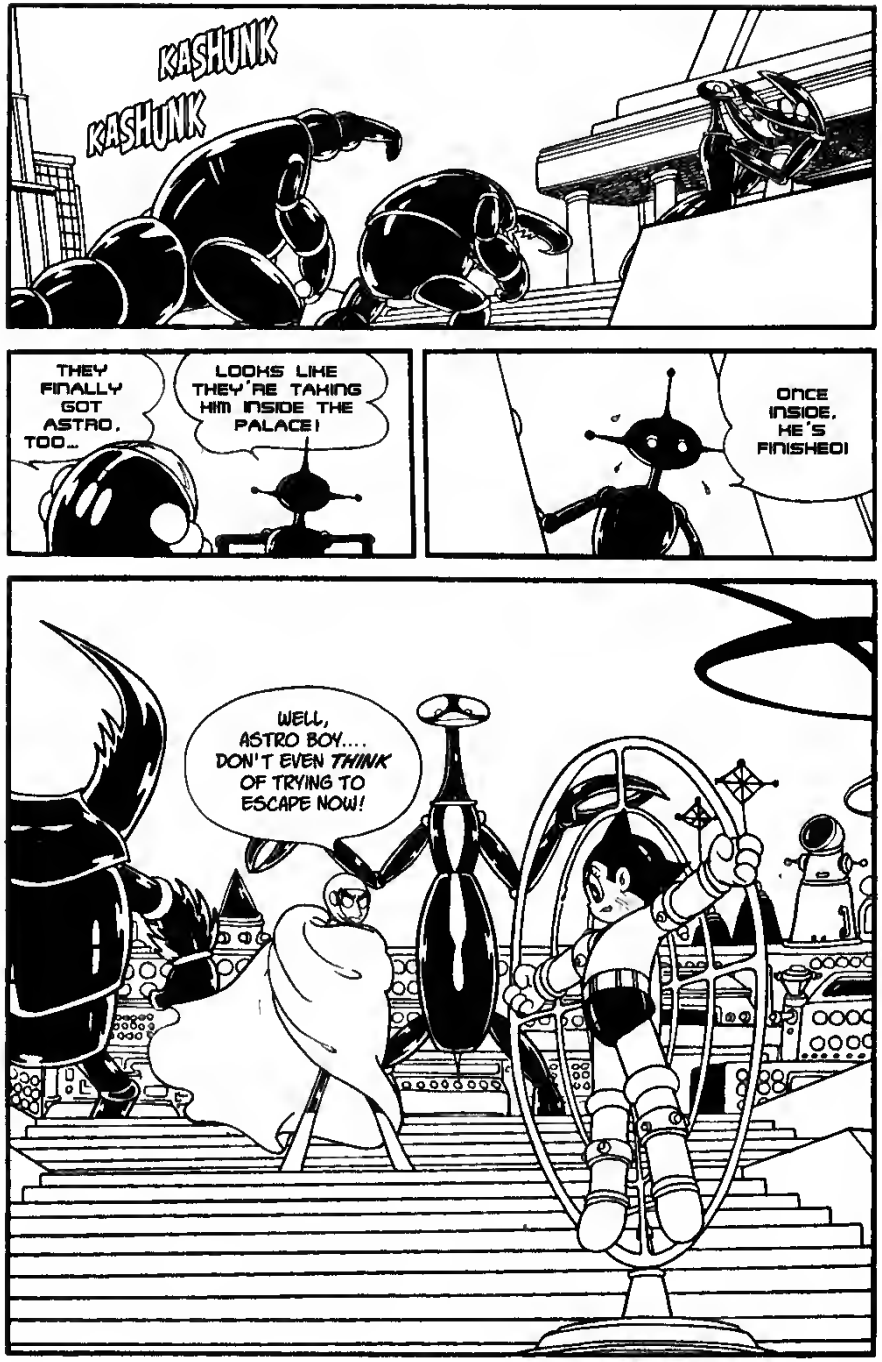

RATATATATATATA

CRACK
HOW'S IT FEEL TO HAVE NO FEELERS, EH?
SUBI SUBI
TRY'N CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!
... BUT NOW IT'S MY TURN!
KERAAAASH

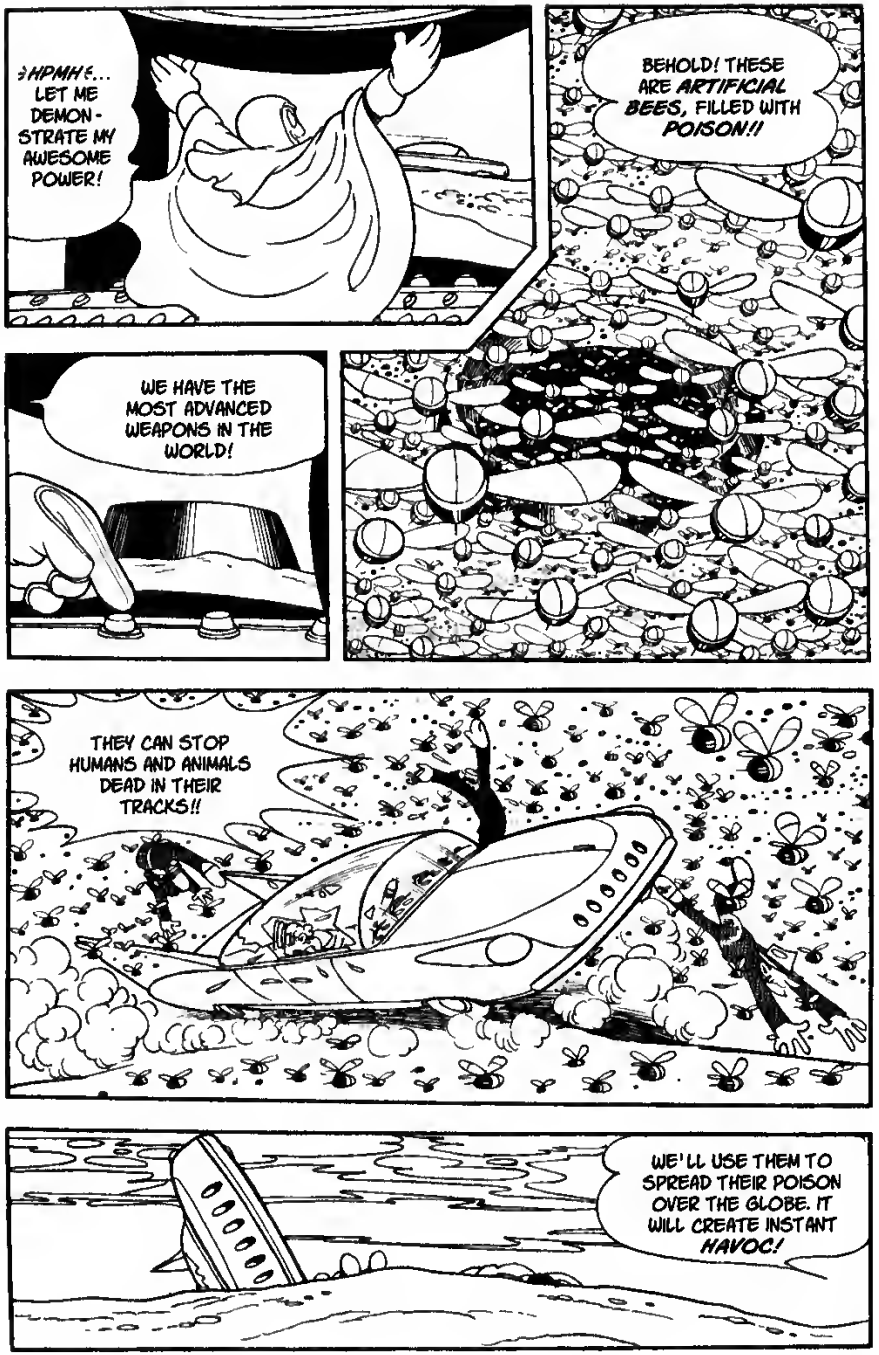

VUIIII
UH OH...
THE OTHER GUARD ROBOTS'RE COMING OUT NOW, ASTRO!
GA BO TTA GA BO GARAPORA GAPO!
GITCHAN GITCHAN GITCHAN GISHIRI GISSHIN GIRIGIRI GIRI
UH OH... I FORGOT THERE WERE MORE OF 'EM!
HOPE I HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY!
GABORA GABORA GABORA

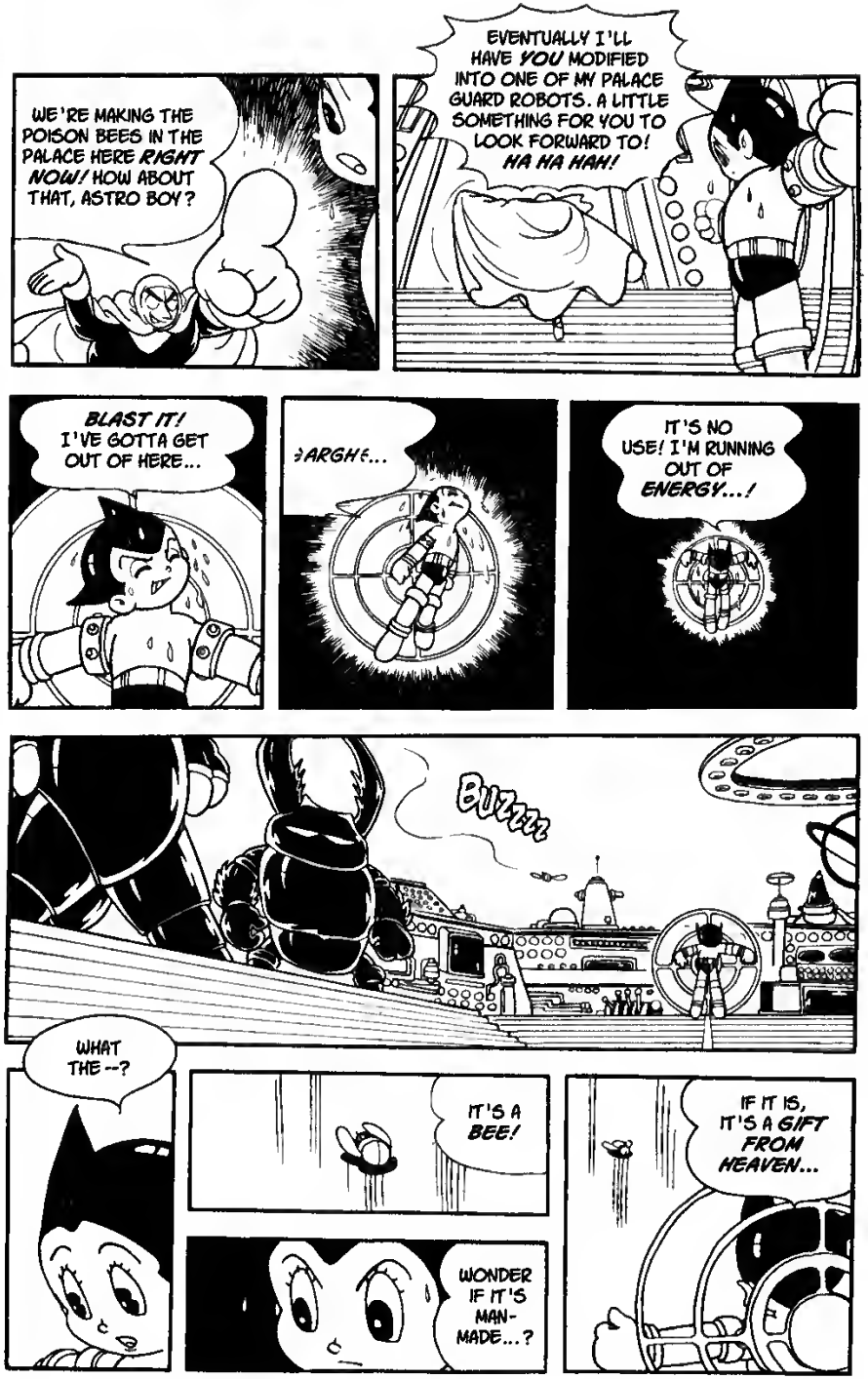

OKAY, MONSTER-BOT!
I'M READY FOR YOU!
FWOP
FWOP FWOP
FWOOSH
HEAVING WEIRD STUFF LIKE THAT WON'T HELP YOU!
KER-SHNACK

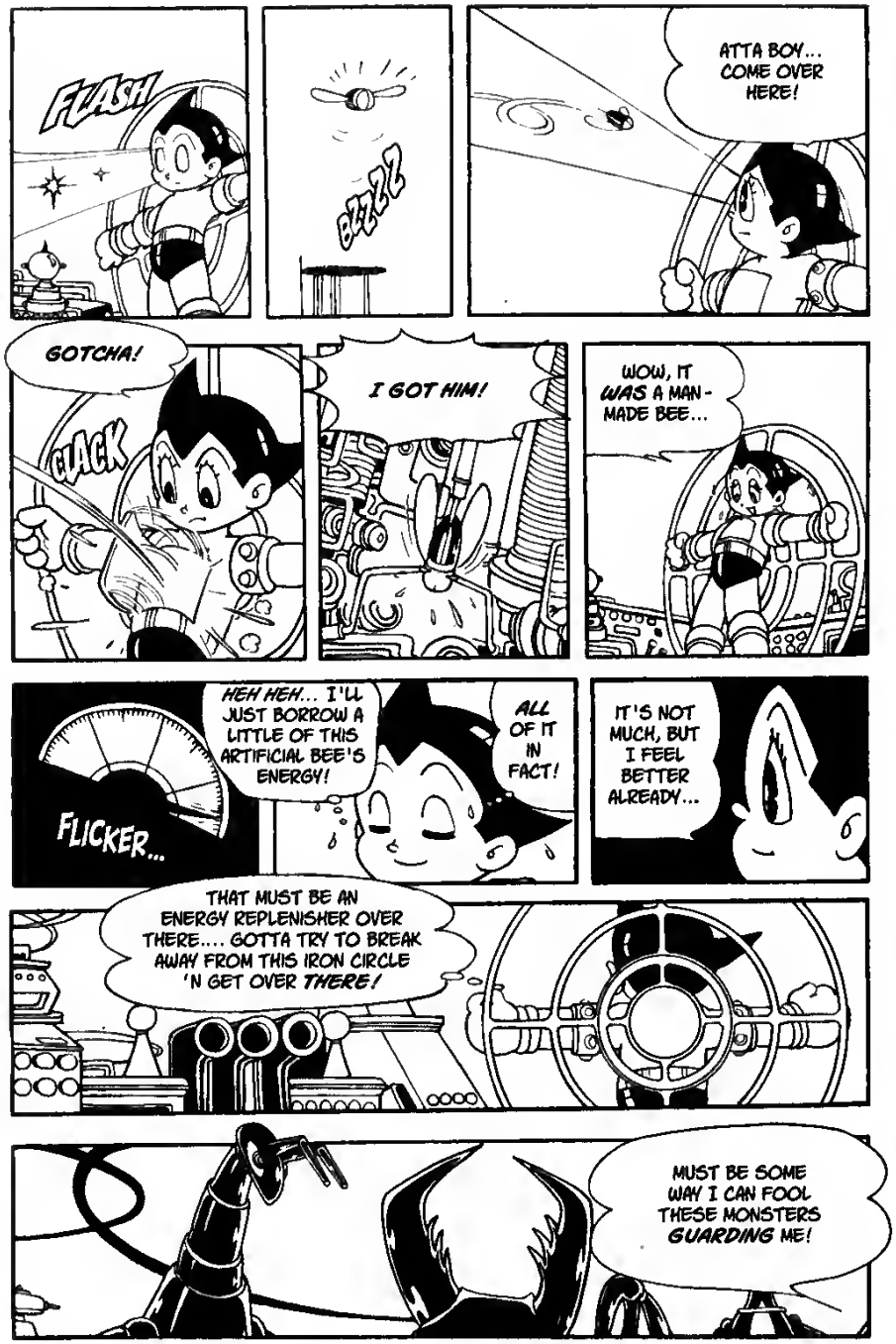

FWOP FWOP FWOOSH
WHACK WHACK WHACK
KABASH
KER-SHNACK
UH OH... HE GOT ME!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
A... ASTRO!!!
PSSSHH!!

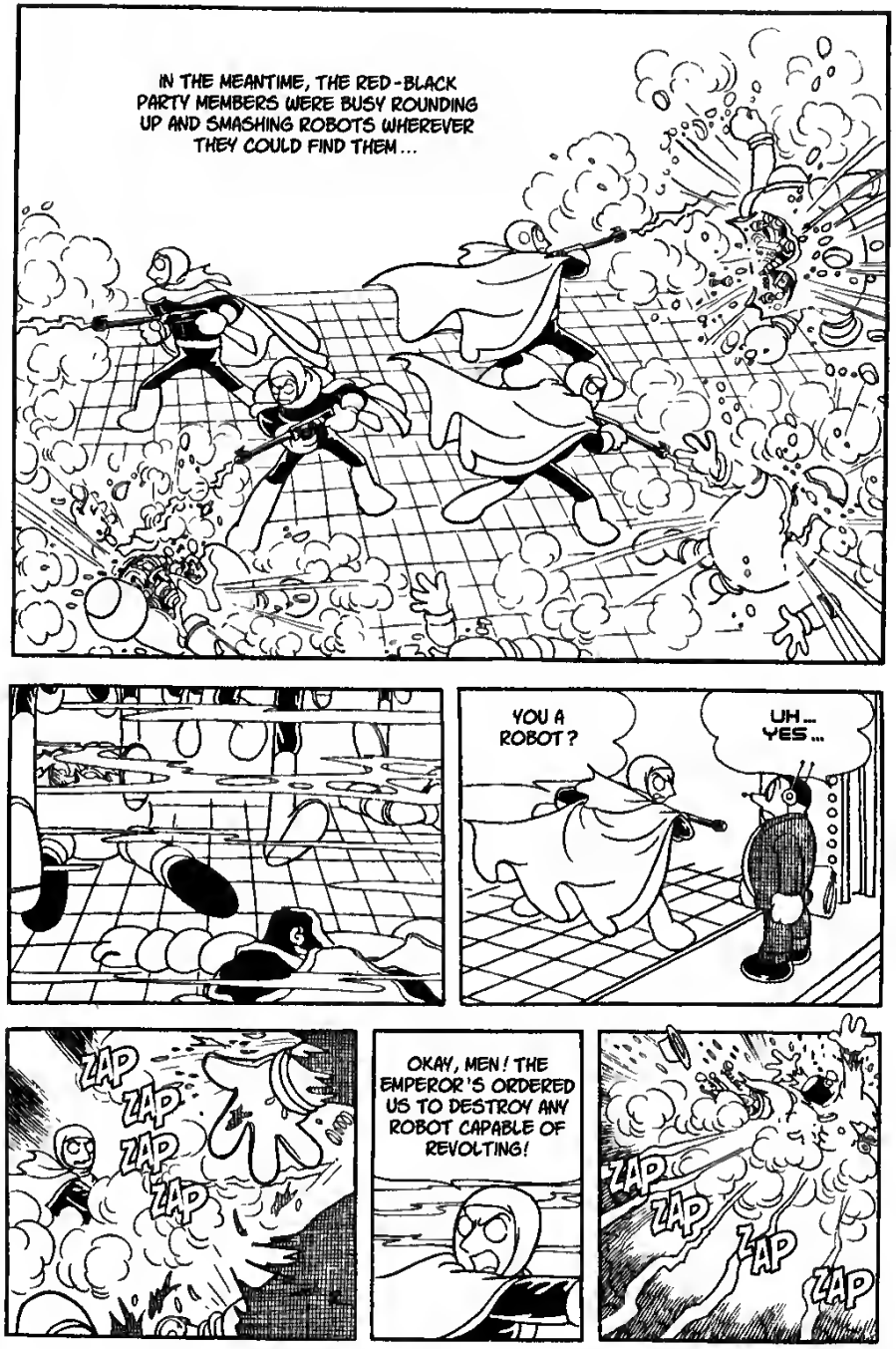

KASHUNK
KASHUNK
THEY FINALLY GOT ASTRO, TOO...
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE TAKING HIM INSIDE THE PALACE!
ONCE INSIDE, HE'S FINISHED!
WELL, ASTRO BOY.... DON'T EVEN THINK OF TRYING TO ESCAPE NOW!

HA HA HA! FOR ALL THE TALK ABOUT YOUR 100,000 HORSEPOWER, YOU LOOK LIKE A LIFELESS DOLL RIGHT NOW!
WHO'RE YOU 'N HOW COME YOU KNOW MY NAME?!
I'M IN CHARGE OF THE DAMA PALACE! I'M THE EMPEROR OF THE ULTRA-GENGHIS KHAN EMPIRE!
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO USES THOSE WEIRD MONSTERS TO TERRORIZE PEOPLE!!
MONSTERS? HA HA! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
THOSE 'RE ROBOTS, PAL! ROBOTS LIKE YOU! AND I MADE THEM!
I'M A SCIENTIST, TOO...
IT WAS CHILD'S PLAY FOR ME TO MAKE THEM!
RIGHT NOW, MY COUNTRY IS HIDDEN BENEATH THE DESERT...
...BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES, THE ULTRA-GENGHIS KAHN EMPIRE WILL CONQUER THE WHOLE WORLD!
FWP
CHAK
YOU EVIL MAN! YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DO IT!


HPMH... LET ME DEMONSTRATE MY AWESOME POWER!
BEHOLD! THESE ARE ARTIFICIAL BEES, FILLED WITH POISON!!
WE HAVE THE MOST ADVANCED WEAPONS IN THE WORLD!
THEY CAN STOP HUMANS AND ANIMALS DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS!!
WE'LL USE THEM TO SPREAD THEIR POISON OVER THE GLOBE. IT WILL CREATE INSTANT HAVOC!

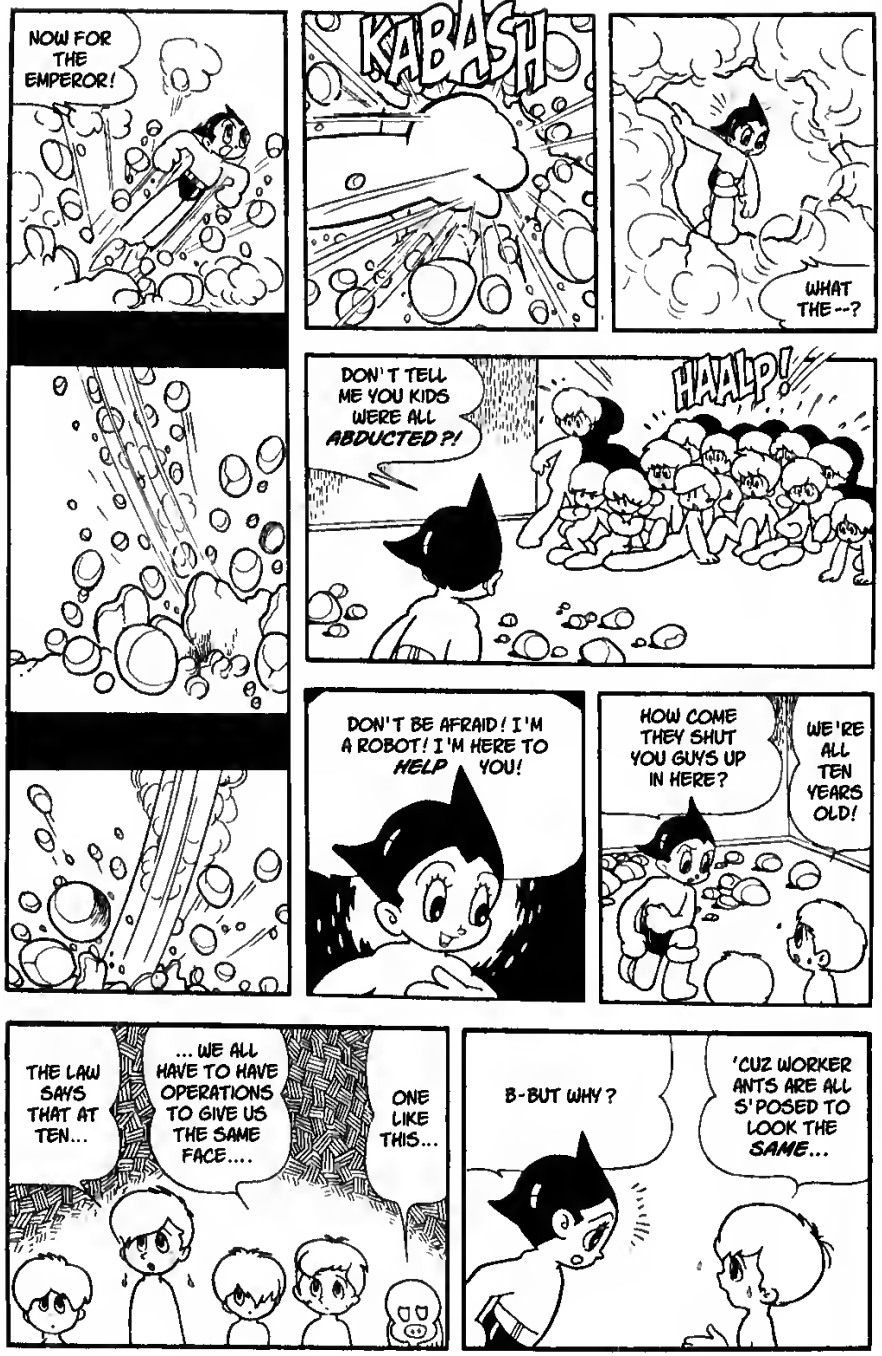

WE'RE MAKING THE POISON BEES IN THE PALACE HERE RIGHT NOW! HOW ABOUT THAT, ASTRO BOY?
EVENTUALLY I'LL HAVE YOU MODIFIED INTO ONE OF MY PALACE GUARD ROBOTS. A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU TO LOOK FORWARD TO! HA HA HAH!
BLAST IT! I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE...
ARGH...
IT'S NO USE! I'M RUNNING OUT OF ENERGY...!
BUZZZZ
WHAT THE --?
IT'S A BEE!
WONDER IF IT'S MAN-MADE...?
IF IT IS, IT'S A GIFT FROM HEAVEN...

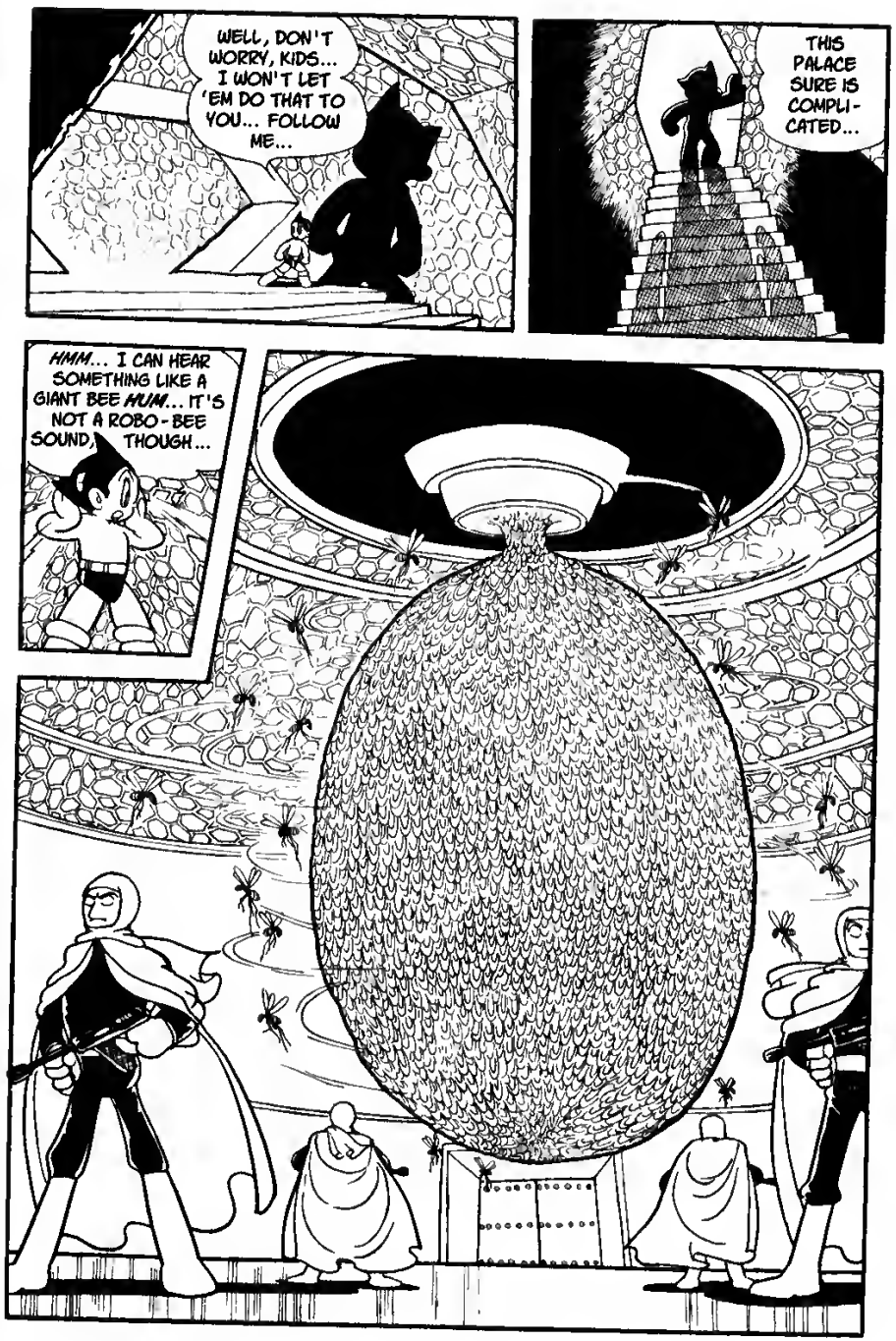

FLASH
BZZZ
ATTA BOY... COME OVER HERE!
GOTCHA!
CLACK
I GOT HIM!
WOW, IT WAS A MAN-MADE BEE...
FLICKER...
HEH HEH... I'LL JUST BORROW A LITTLE OF THIS ARTIFICIAL BEE'S ENERGY!
ALL OF IT IN FACT!
IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT I FEEL BETTER ALREADY...
THAT MUST BE AN ENERGY REPLENISHER OVER THERE.... GOTTA TRY TO BREAK AWAY FROM THIS IRON CIRCLE 'N GET OVER THERE!
MUST BE SOME WAY I CAN FOOL THESE MONSTERS GUARDING ME!

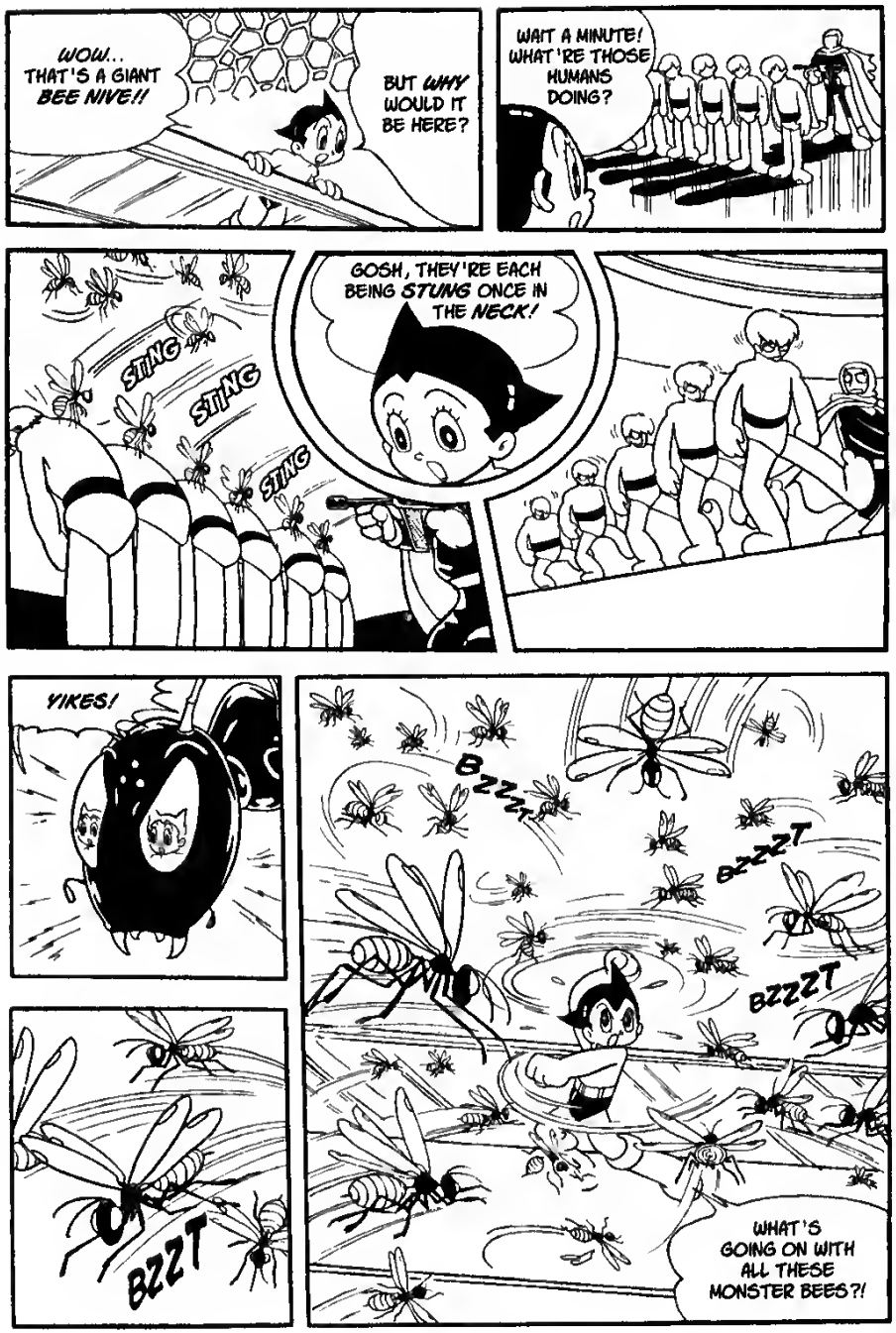

IN THE MEANTIME, THE RED-BLACK PARTY MEMBERS WERE BUSY ROUNDING UP AND SMASHING ROBOTS WHEREVER THEY COULD FIND THEM...
YOU A ROBOT?
UH... YES...
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
OKAY, MEN! THE EMPEROR'S ORDERED US TO DESTROY ANY ROBOT CAPABLE OF REVOLTING!
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP

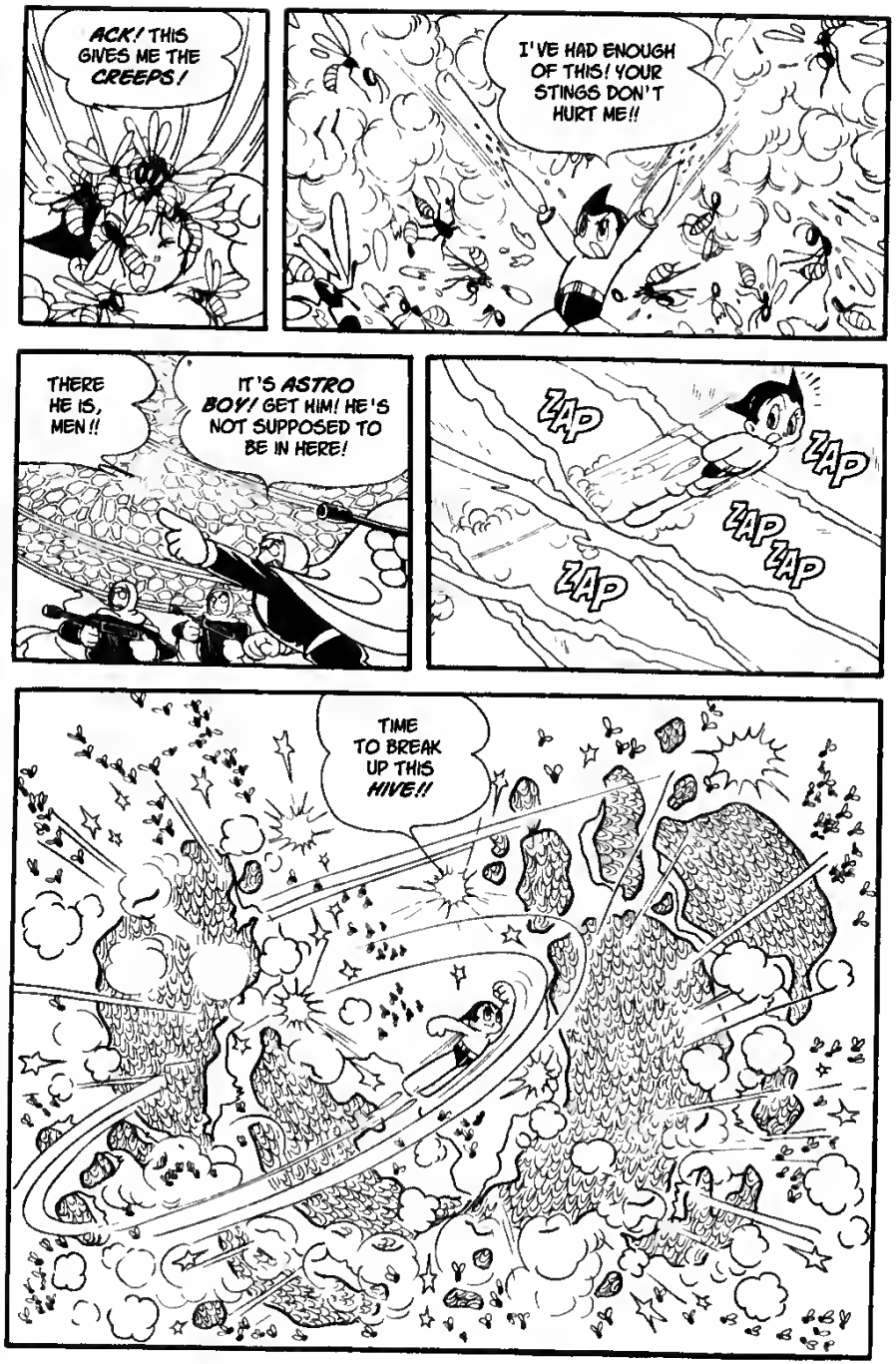
YOU TWO'RE NOW MOBILIZED! STOMP OUT ANY ROBOT REBELS IN THE CITY!
GYAAAA
KASHUNK
KASHUNK
THINK WE C'N LEAVE HIM WITHOUT A GUARD?
DON'T WORRY! HE CAN'T MOVE AN INCH LIKE THAT!
CLICK
WE BLEW IT!
HELP! SOMEBODY HELP!
ACK! HE'S MOVING!
JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!
RATATATATAT
AIEEE!!!

YAY! I'VE GOT MY STRENGTH BACK!
ALL 100,000 HORSE-POWER!
OKAY, YOU FAKE EMPEROR!
HERE I COME, READY OR NOT!
SO THIS IS WHERE THE RED-BLACK PARTY MEMBERS HANG OUT! TIME TO GO AT IT, GUYS!
TAKE THIS!
OW!
OW!
OUCH!
YOW!

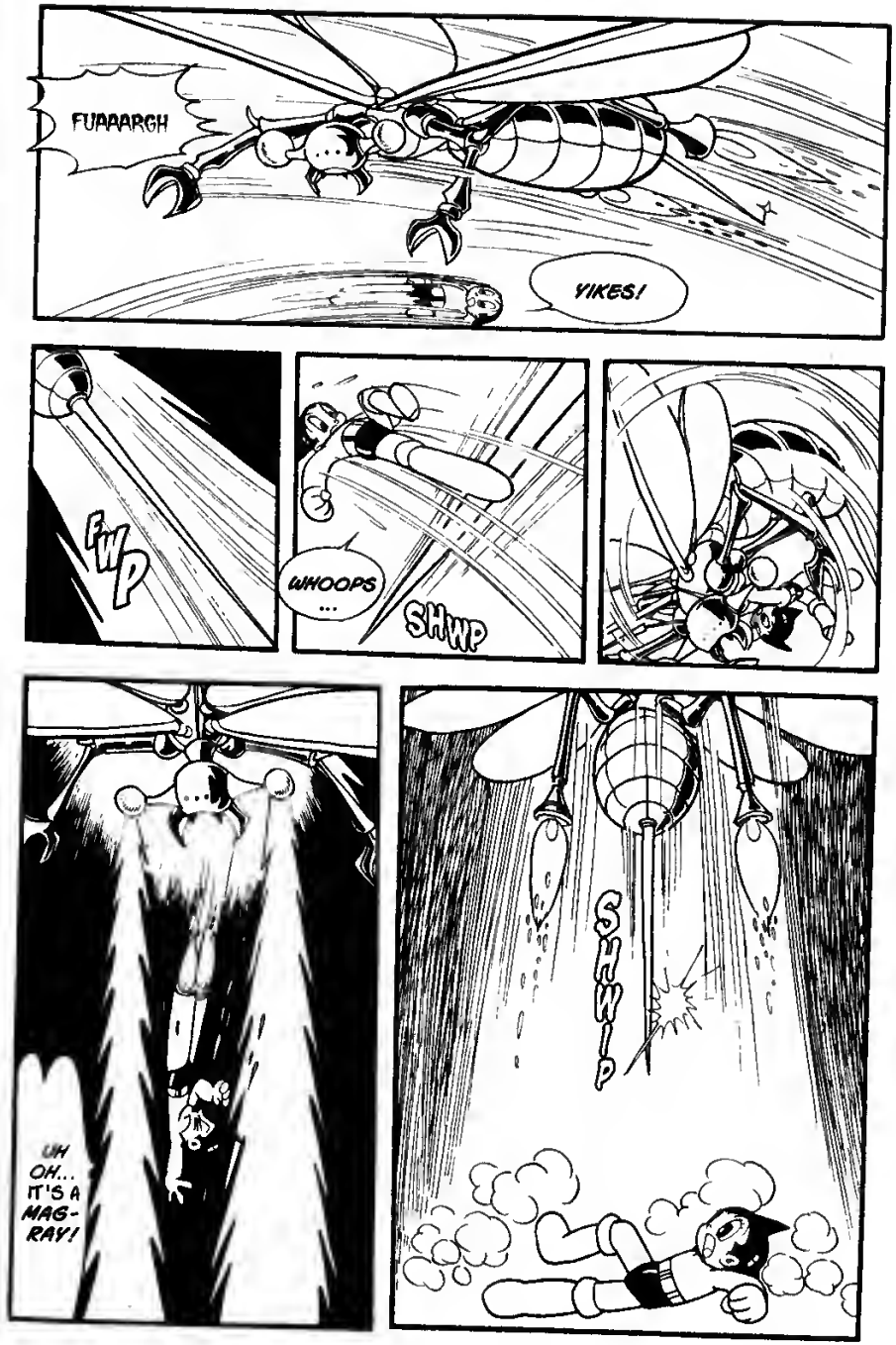

NOW FOR THE EMPEROR!
KABASH
WHAT THE--?
DON'T TELL ME YOU KIDS WERE ALL ABDUCTED?!
HAALP!
DON'T BE AFRAID! I'M A ROBOT! I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!
HOW COME THEY SHUT YOU GUYS UP IN HERE?
WE'RE ALL TEN YEARS OLD!
THE LAW SAYS THAT AT TEN...
... WE ALL HAVE TO HAVE OPERATIONS TO GIVE US THE SAME FACE....
ONE LIKE THIS...
B-BUT WHY?
'CUZ WORKER ANTS ARE ALL S'POSED TO LOOK THE SAME...


WELL, DON'T WORRY, KIDS... I WON'T LET 'EM DO THAT TO YOU... FOLLOW ME...
THIS PALACE SURE IS COMPLI-CATED...
HMM... I CAN HEAR SOMETHING LIKE A GIANT BEE HUM... IT'S NOT A ROBO-BEE SOUND, THOUGH...


WOW.. THAT'S A GIANT BEE NIVE!!
BUT WHY WOULD IT BE HERE?
WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'RE THOSE HUMANS DOING?
GOSH, THEY'RE EACH BEING STUNG ONCE IN THE NECK!
STING
STING
STING
YIKES!
BZZT
BZZZT
BZZZT
BZZZT
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ALL THESE MONSTER BEES?!

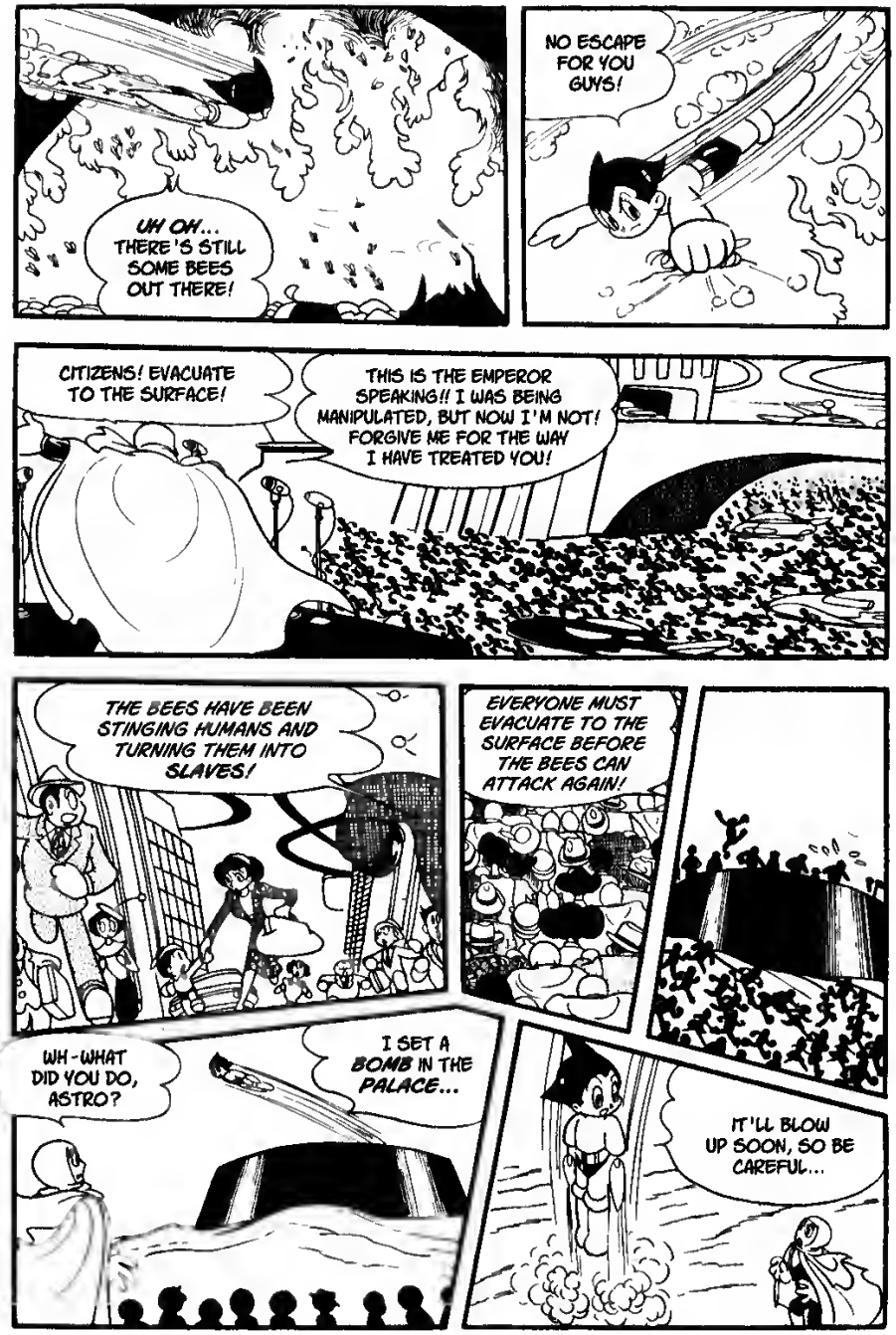

ACK! THIS GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! YOUR STINGS DON'T HURT ME!!
THERE HE IS, MEN!!
IT'S ASTRO BOY! GET HIM! HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN HERE!
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP ZAP
ZAP
TIME TO BREAK UP THIS HIVE!!

BLAST! HE SMASHED THE HIVE!
W-WE'RE DOOMED, EMPEROR!
NO ESCAPE, EMPEROR! IT'S ONE-ON-ONE WITH ME, NOW!
NO! I'VE STILL GOT SOMETHING UP MY SLEEVE!
KACHANK
BLLL
BLLLL
BLLLL
BLLL
HOW ABOUT THAT, ASTRO BOY? IT'S THE GUARDIAN DIETY OF ALL BEES! AND HE'S ANGRY, AT YOU!
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP

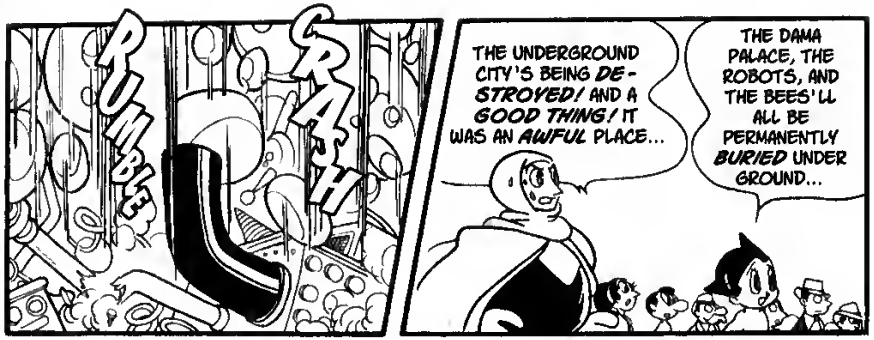

FUAAARGH
YIKES!
FWP
WHOOPS ...
SHWP
UH OH... IT'S A MAG-RAY!
SEEWID

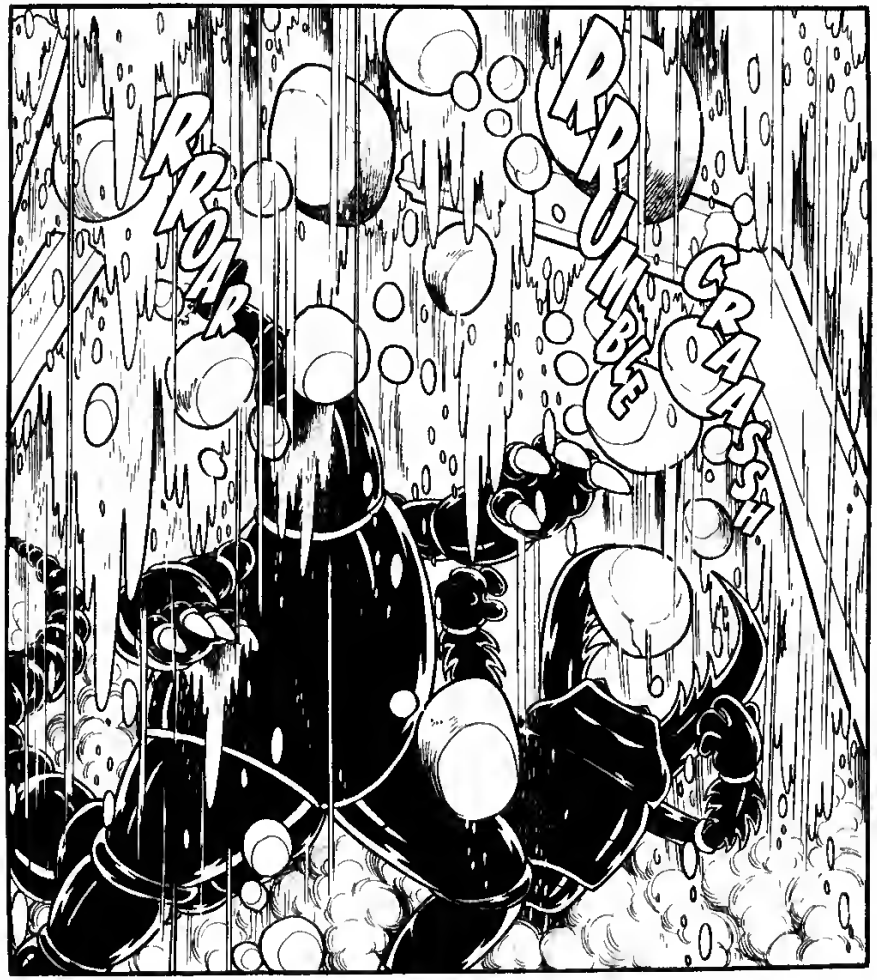
KA BA AM
HOW ABOUT THIS?!
AIEEE!
KVOOOSH
RUN FOR IT! EVERYTHING'S ON FIRE!
NO ESCAPE, GUYS!
HMPH... IMAGINE FINDING THE EMPEROR, OUT LIKE A COLD FISH...
BUT I'VE STILL GOTTA MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T FRY TO DEATH...

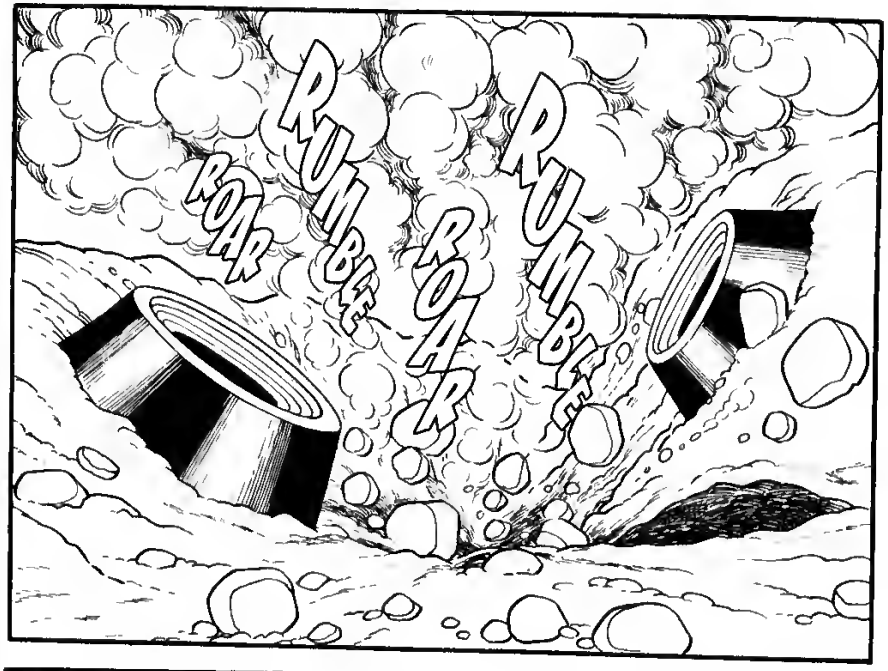
IT'S THE DUTY OF ROBOTS LIKE ME TO HELP PEOPLE IN TROUBLE...
... EVEN BAD GUYS LIKE YOU...
YOU'RE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT NOW, MR. EMPEROR...
GOOD! YOU'VE COME TO! BUT WHAT'S THIS STRANGE LOOK ON YOUR FACE?
WH... WHERE AM I...?
YOU'RE IN THE DAMA PALACE!
B-BUT WHO ARE YOU? WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?
I... DON'T REMEMBER A THING!
B.. BUT YOU'RE THE EMPEROR, AND THIS IS YOUR PALACE, RIGHT?
AND BY THE WAY, WHAT'S WITH ALL THOSE BEES? WHY'RE YOU RAISING THEM?
BEES? NOW I REMEMBER! THEY MADE ME INTO A SLAVE!
WAIT A MINUTE... I DON'T GET IT! YOU'RE A SLAVE OF THE BEES?
RIGHT! THE BEES STING PEOPLE, TURN THEM INTO SLAVES, AND THEN USE THEM! THAT'S WHAT THEY MUST'VE DONE TO ME!
THEY'VE ALL GOT TO BE DESTROYED! OTHERWISE THEY'RE A TERRIBLE THREAT TO MANKIND!
REALLY? GOSH, I HAD NO IDEA!

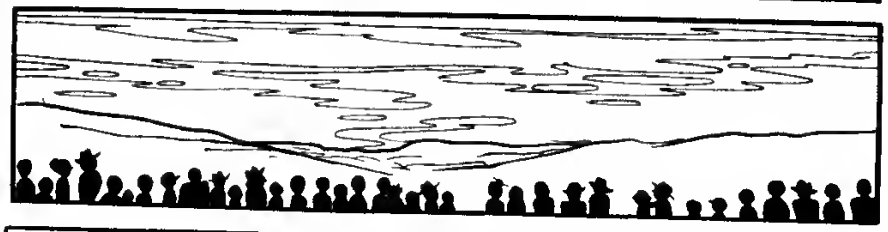

UH OH... THERE'S STILL SOME BEES OUT THERE!
NO ESCAPE FOR YOU GUYS!
CITIZENS! EVACUATE TO THE SURFACE!
THIS IS THE EMPEROR SPEAKING!! I WAS BEING MANIPULATED, BUT NOW I'M NOT! FORGIVE ME FOR THE WAY I HAVE TREATED YOU!
THE BEES HAVE BEEN STINGING HUMANS AND TURNING THEM INTO SLAVES!
EVERYONE MUST EVACUATE TO THE SURFACE BEFORE THE BEES CAN ATTACK AGAIN!
WH-WHAT DID YOU DO, ASTRO?
I SET A BOMB IN THE PALACE...
IT'LL BLOW UP SOON, SO BE CAREFUL...

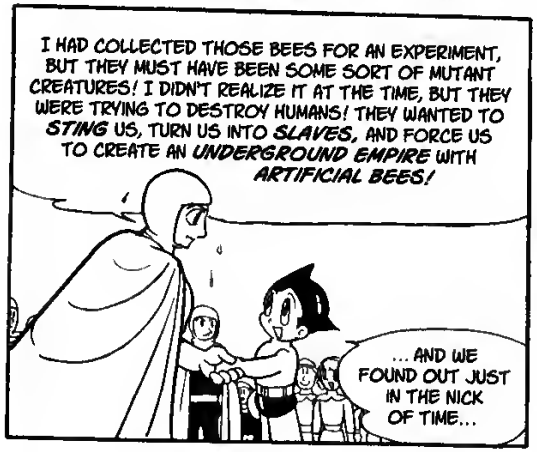
KABABABOOOOOM
ROAR
RUMBLE
CRASH
ROAR
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


RUMBLE
CRASH
THE UNDERGROUND CITY'S BEING DE-STROYED! AND A GOOD THING! IT WAS AN AWFUL PLACE...
THE DAMA PALACE, THE ROBOTS, AND THE BEES'LL ALL BE PERMANENTLY BURIED UNDER GROUND...


RRUMBLE
CRASSH
RROAR


RUMBLE
ROAR
RUMBLE
ROAR
RUMBLE

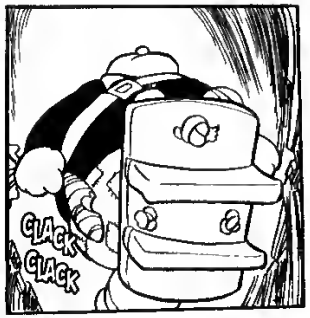



I HAD COLLECTED THOSE BEES FOR AN EXPERIMENT, BUT THEY MUST HAVE BEEN SOME SORT OF MUTANT CREATURES! I DIDN'T REALIZE IT AT THE TIME, BUT THEY WERE TRYING TO DESTROY HUMANS! THEY WANTED TO STING US, TURN US INTO SLAVES, AND FORCE US TO CREATE AN UNDERGROUND EMPIRE WITH ARTIFICIAL BEES!
... AND WE FOUND OUT JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME...

WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO LIVE IN PEACE NOW, THANKS TO YOU, ASTROBOY!
G'BYE, EVERY-BODY! HERE'S WISHING YOU AND YOUR NEW COUNTRY THE BEST!

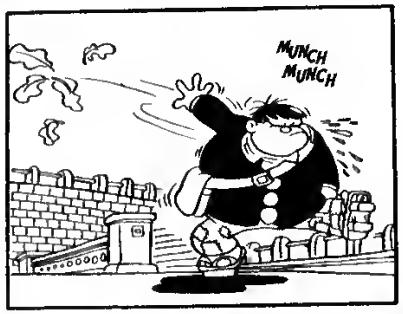
FORTRESS OF THE CENTAURS

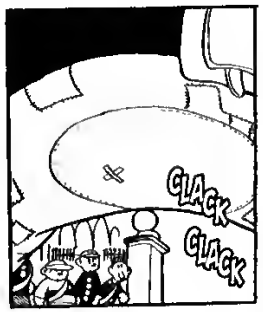
First serialized from May to July 1958 in *Shonen* magazine.

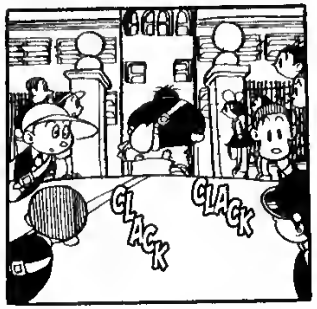

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

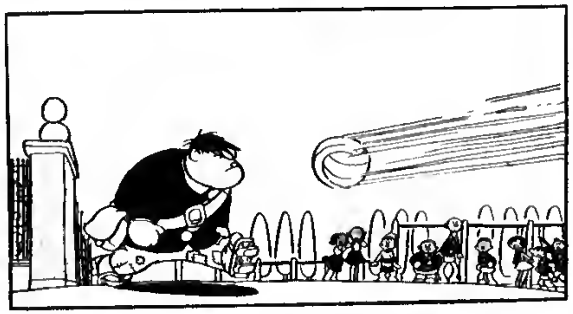
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

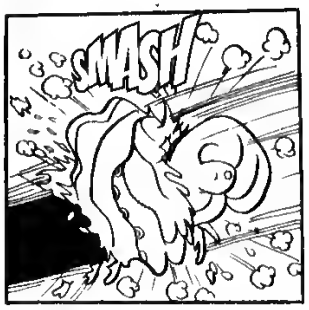
KACHOMP

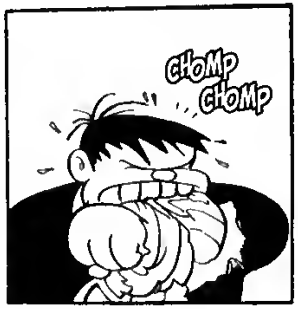

MUNCH
MUNCH


CLACK
CLACK

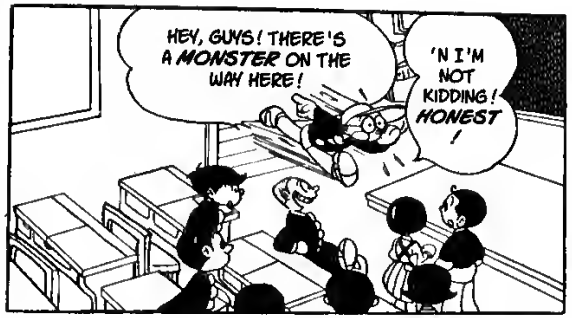

CLACK
CLACK




SMASH!

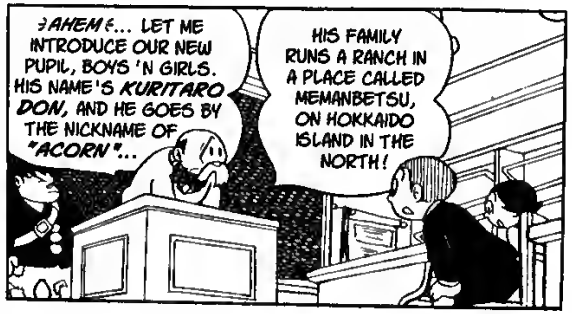

CHOMP
CHOMP

PTOOEY!

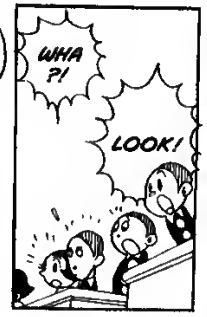

HEY, GUYS! THERE'S A MONSTER ON THE WAY HERE!
'N I'M NOT KIDDING! HONEST!

HE ATE A SOCCER BALL!! HE'LL PROLLY EAT OUR TEACHER, TOO!
EEEK!!

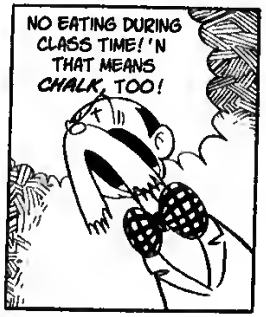
TOO BAD, TAMAO, BUT I'M STILL HERE...

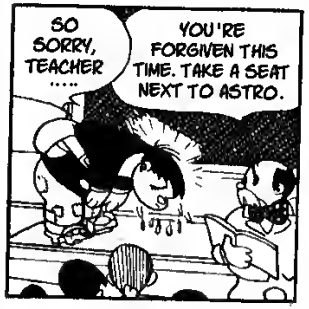

AHEM!... LET ME INTRODUCE OUR NEW PUPIL, BOYS 'N GIRLS. HIS NAME'S KURITARO DON, AND HE GOES BY THE NICKNAME OF "ACORN"...
HIS FAMILY RUNS A RANCH IN A PLACE CALLED MEMANBETSU, ON HOKKAIDO ISLAND IN THE NORTH!

...SO HE'S NOT A REAL MONSTER...


WHA?!
LOOK!

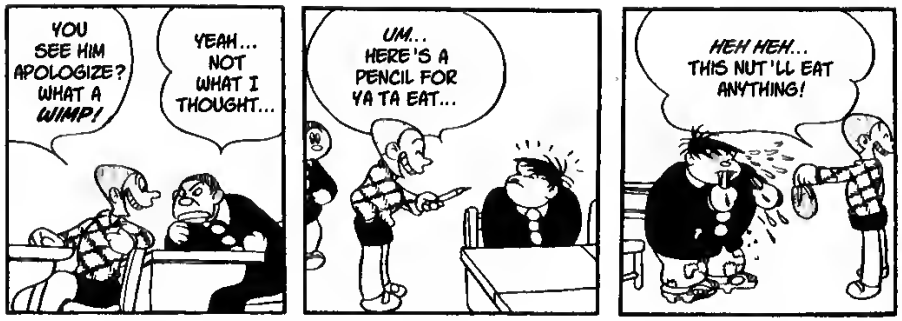
WOW! HE'S EATING CHALK!

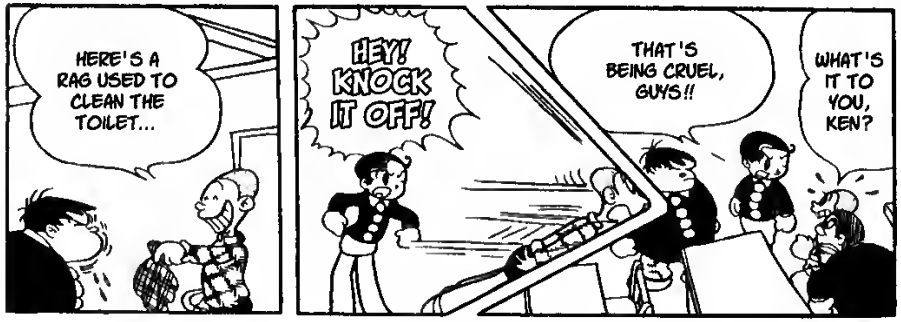

NO EATING DURING CLASS TIME! 'N THAT MEANS CHALK, TOO!

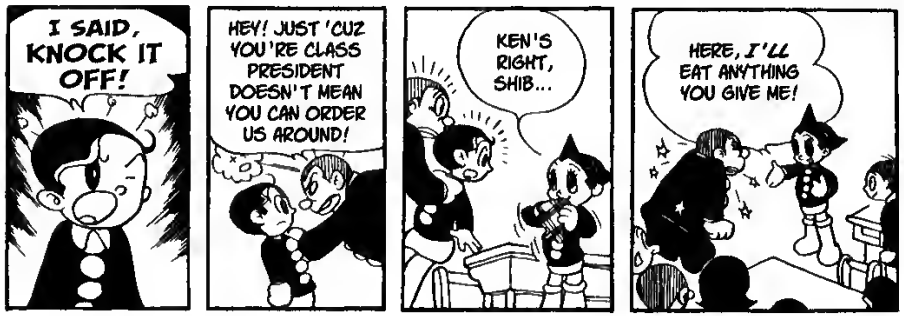

SO SORRY, TEACHER.....
YOU'RE FORGIVEN THIS TIME. TAKE A SEAT NEXT TO ASTRO.

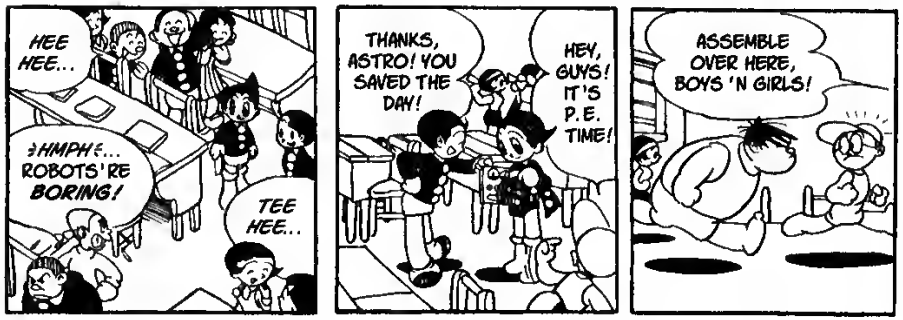
OW! THAT HURT!

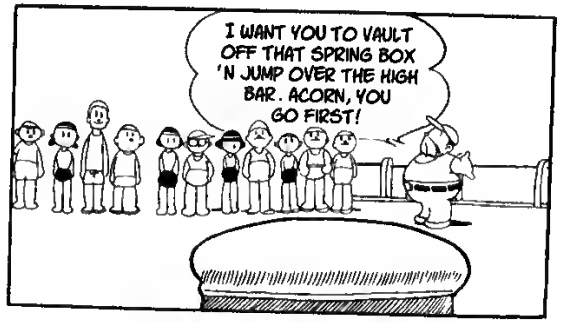
SO SORRY...

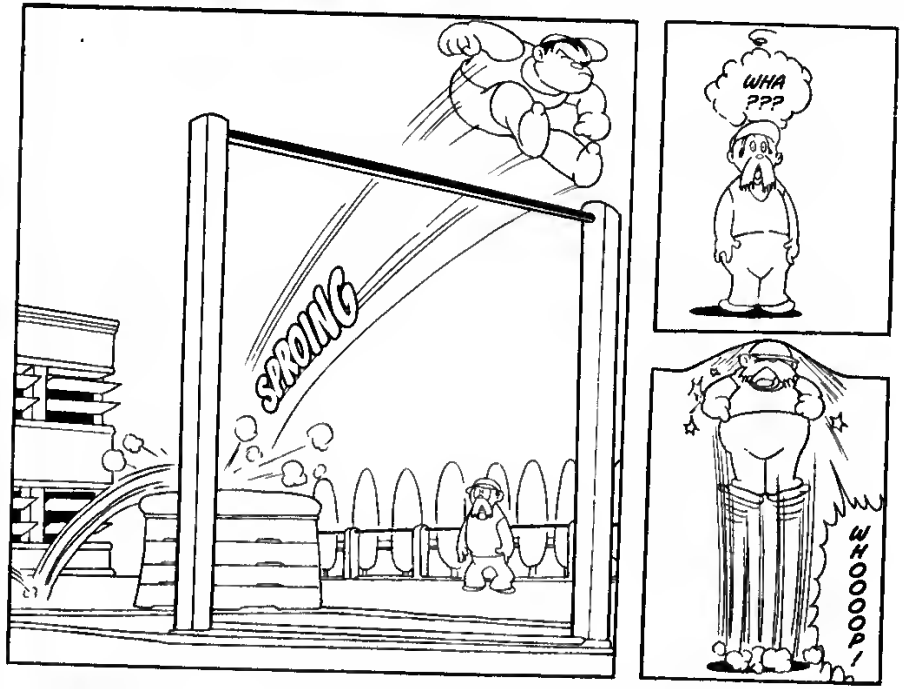

YOU SEE HIM APOLOGIZE? WHAT A WIMP!
YEAH... NOT WHAT I THOUGHT...
UM... HERE'S A PENCIL FOR YA TA EAT...
HEH HEH... THIS NUT'LL EAT ANYTHING!


HERE'S A RAG USED TO CLEAN THE TOILET...
HEY! KNOCK IT OFF!
THAT'S BEING CRUEL, GUYS!!
WHAT'S IT TO YOU, KEN?


I SAID, KNOCK IT OFF!
HEY! JUST 'CUZ YOU'RE CLASS PRESIDENT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN ORDER US AROUND!
KEN'S RIGHT, SHIB...
HERE, I'LL EAT ANYTHING YOU GIVE ME!

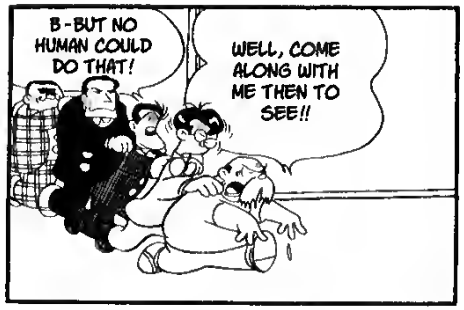

HEE HEE...
HMPH!... ROBOTS'RE BORING!
TEE HEE...
THANKS, ASTRO! YOU SAVED THE DAY!
HEY, GUYS! IT'S P.E. TIME!
ASSEMBLE OVER HERE, BOYS 'N GIRLS!

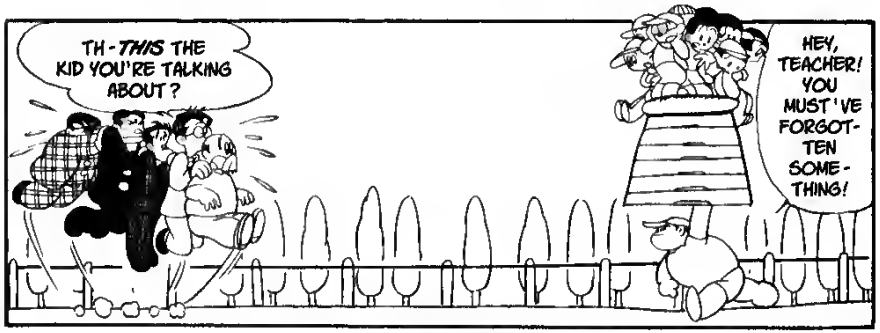

I WANT YOU TO VAULT OFF THAT SPRING BOX 'N JUMP OVER THE HIGH BAR. ACORN, YOU GO FIRST!
THINK HE C'N GET OFF THE GROUND?


SPROING
WHA ???
WHOOOOP!

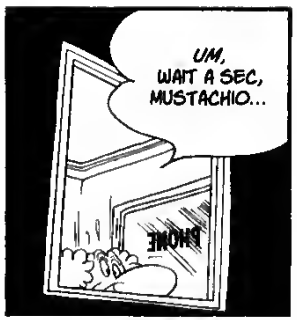
WHEEEEE!
G-GUESS WHAT?! THAT NEW KID IN MY CLASS JUST JUMPED NINE FEET!
AW, C'MON, MUSTACHIO... ONLY A ROBOT COULD DO THAT...

DID HE HAVE A PHYSICAL EXAM?
HEY! I KNOW HE'S A HUMAN, OKAY?


B-BUT NO HUMAN COULD DO THAT!
WELL, COME ALONG WITH ME THEN TO SEE!!


TH-THIS THE KID YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
HEY, TEACHER! YOU MUST'VE FORGOT-TEN SOME-THING!

'ELLO? REALLY? THAT IS AN ODD KID...
... BUT A REALLY TRAINED HUMAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO JUMP THAT HIGH...


UM, WAIT A SEC, MUSTACHIO...
HOME

I HEAR STRANGE FOOTSTEPS...
CLIP CLOP CLIPCLIP

CLIP
CLOP
CLIP
CLOP

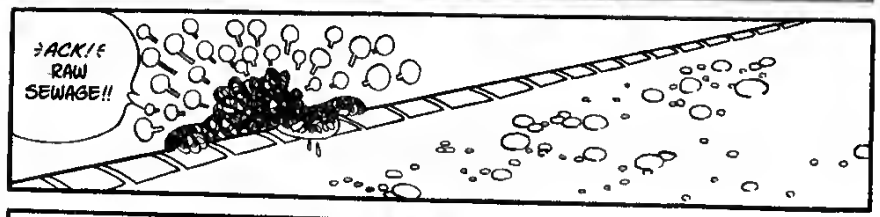
CLIP CLOP CLIPCLIP CLOP

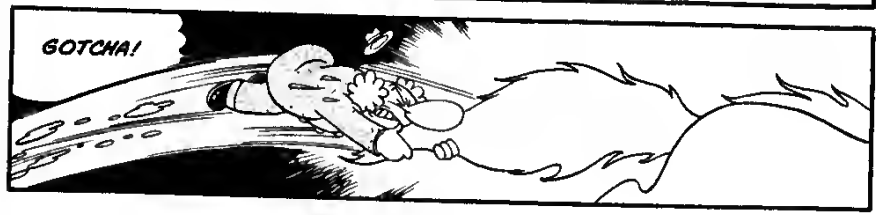
THAT'S AN AWFULLY STRANGE HORSE....

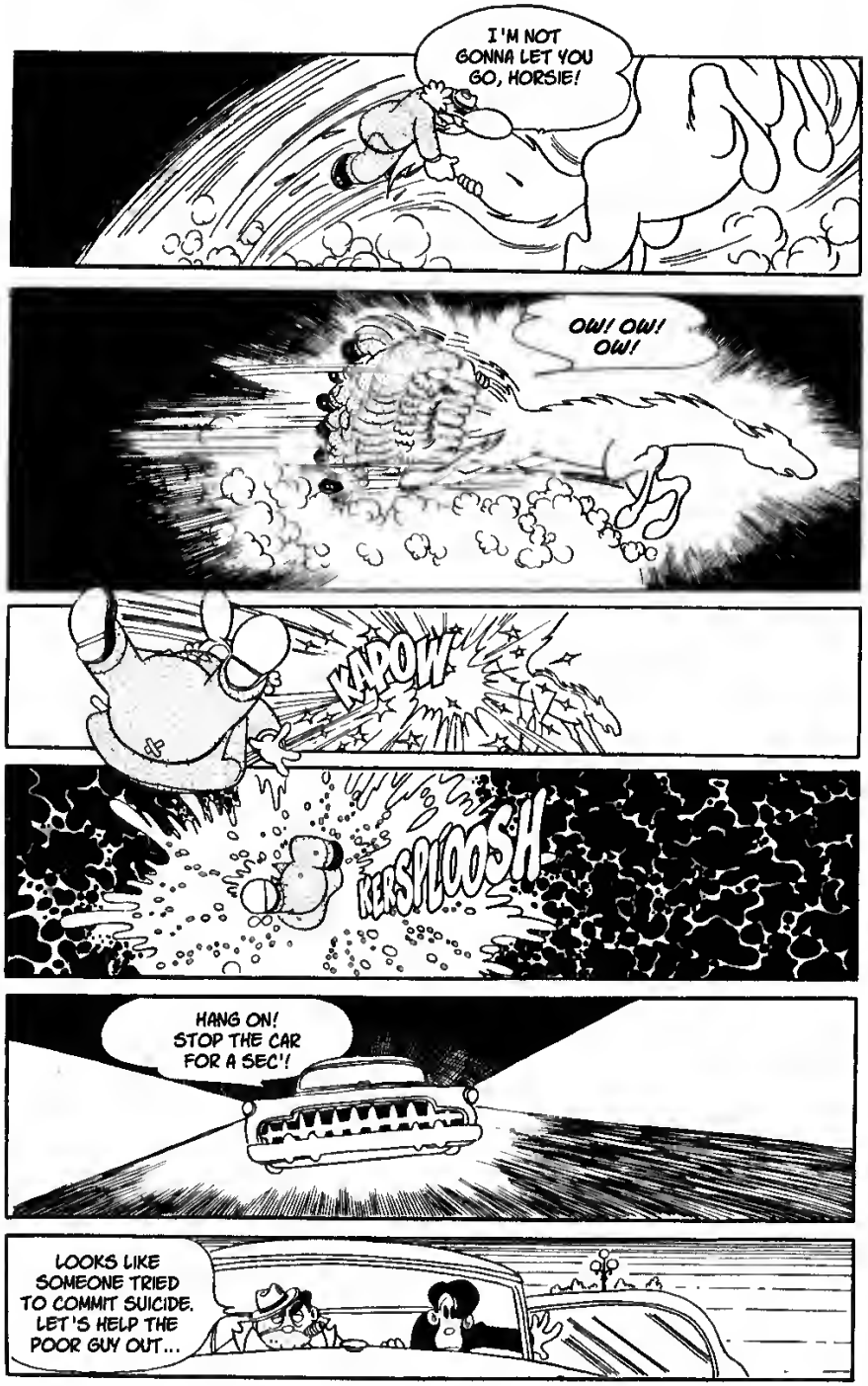
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I WONDER IF IT'S A REAL HORSE OR AN APPARITION?!

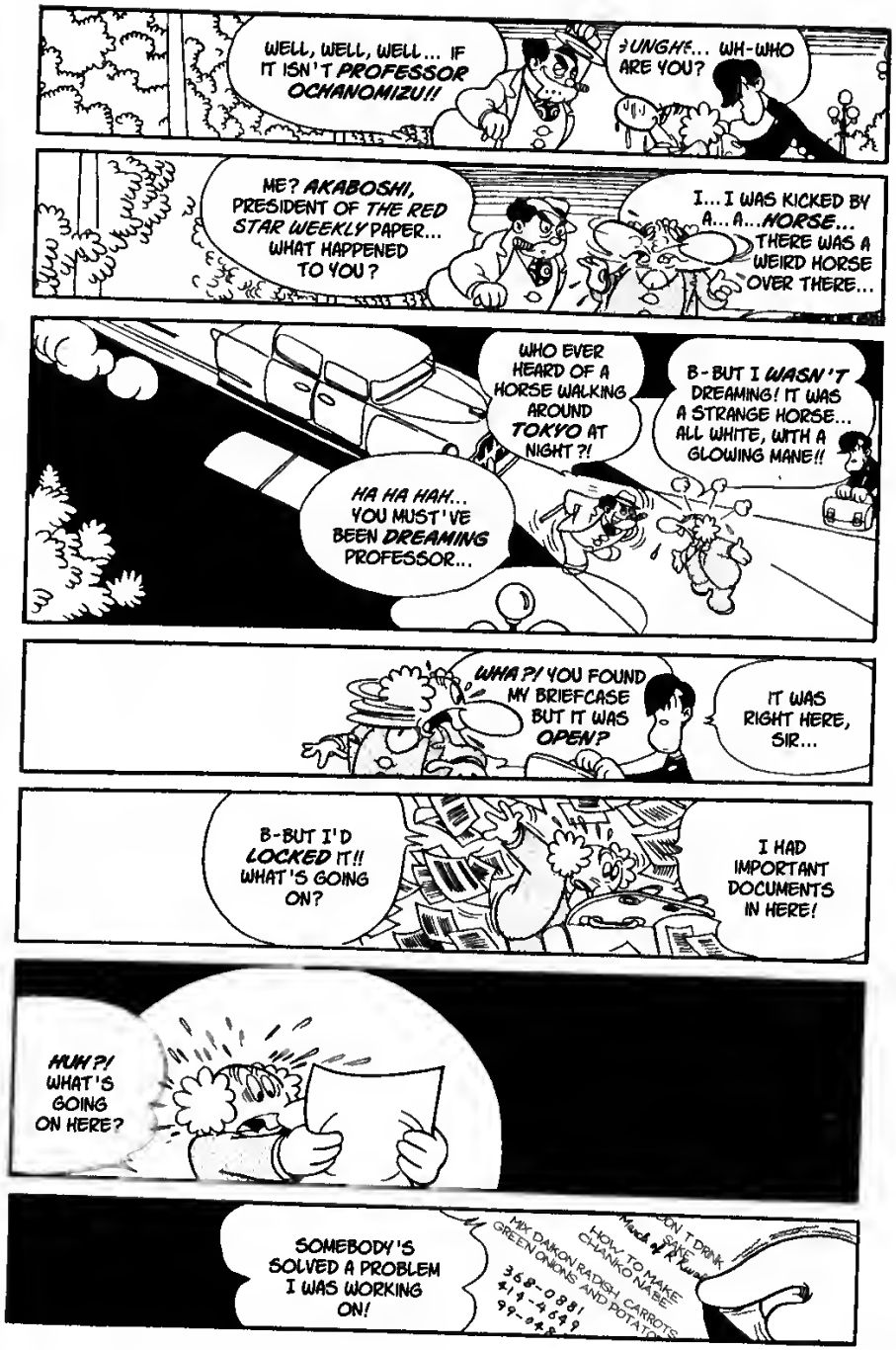
I'LL TRY'N CUT HIM OFF BY THE ROAD HERE 'N CATCH HIM!

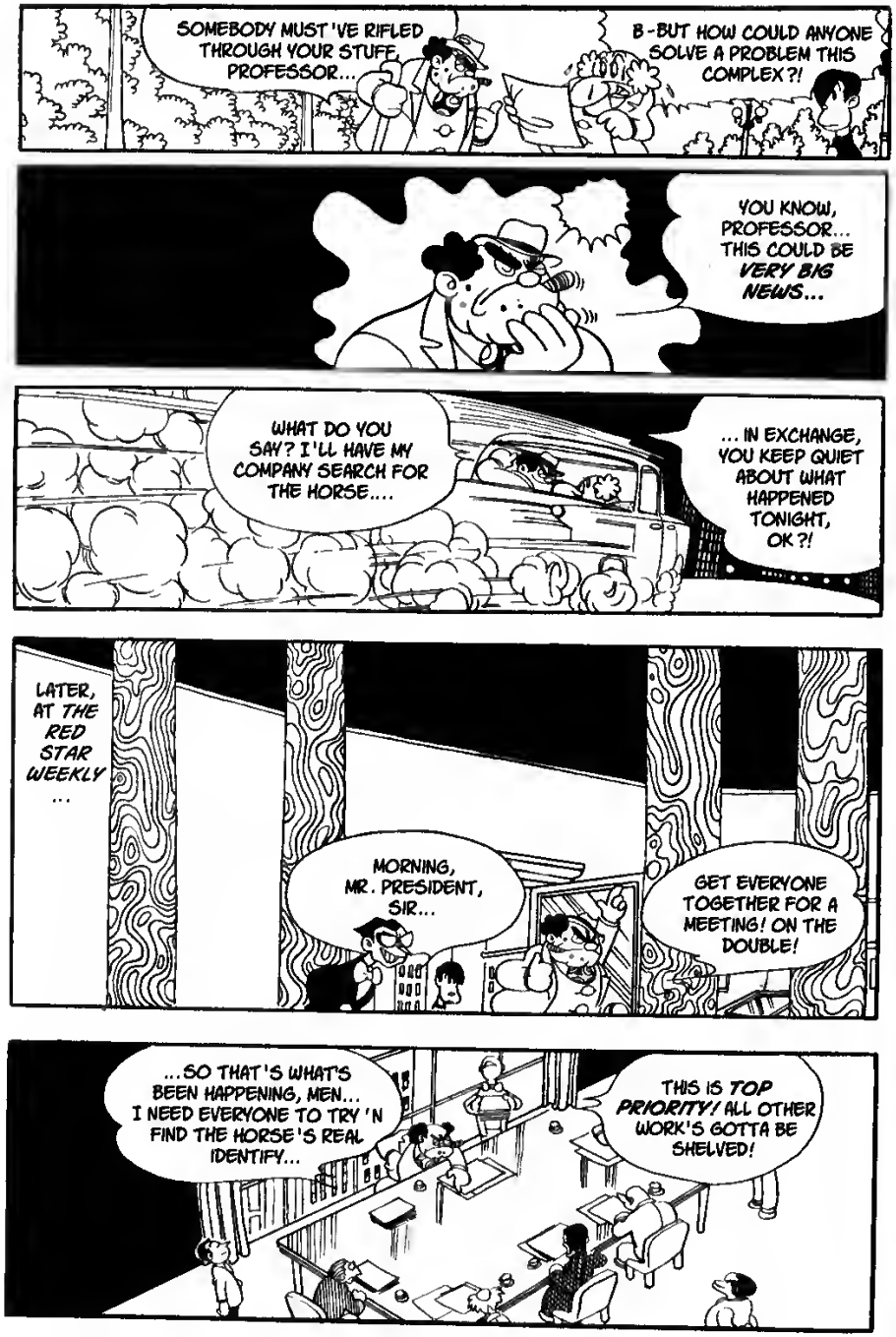
KAYOOOSH

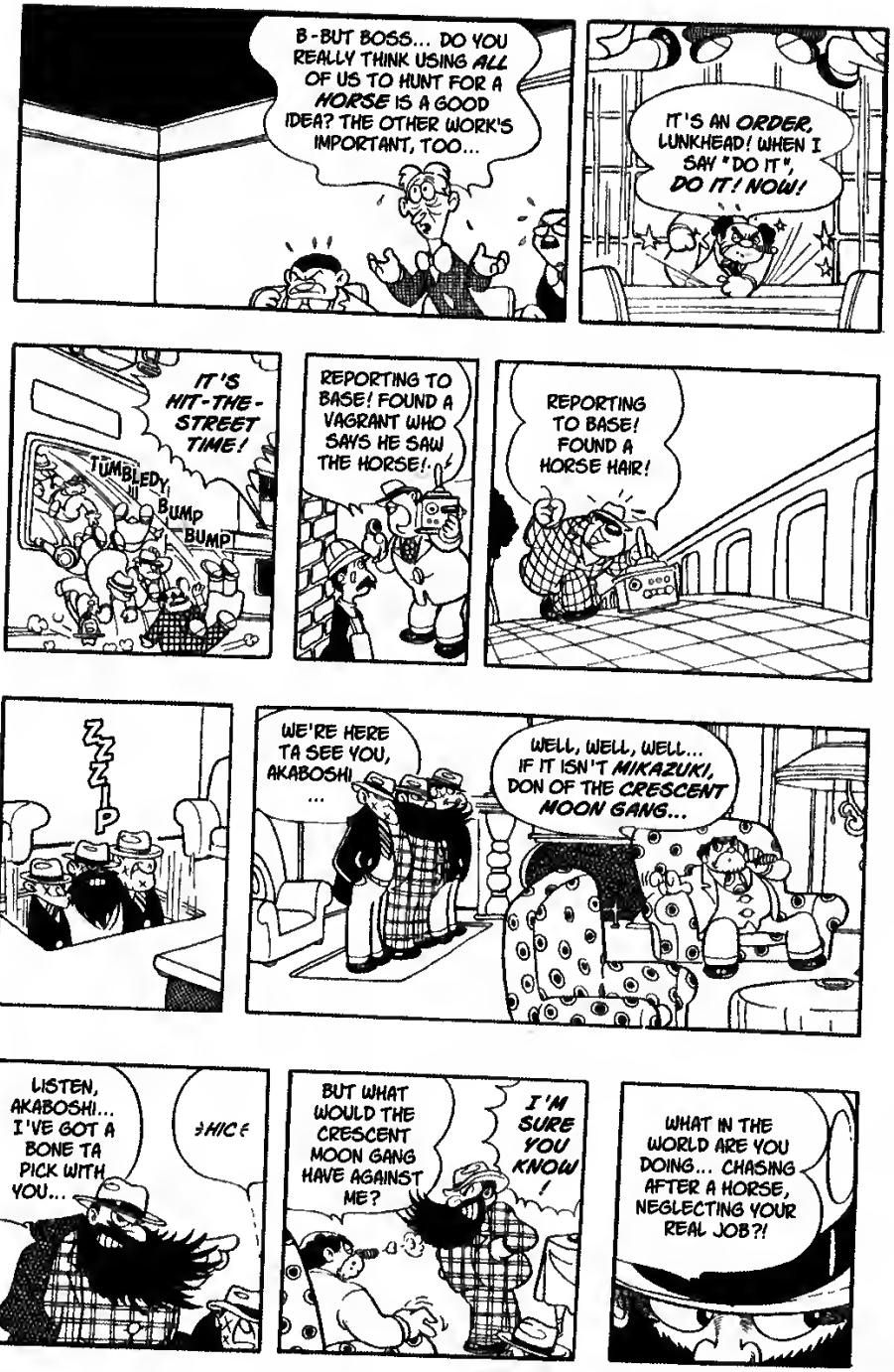

AACK! RAW SEWAGE!!


GOTCHA!


I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU GO, HORSIE!
OW! OW! OW!
KAPOW!
KERSPLOOSH
HANG ON! STOP THE CAR FOR A SEC'!
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE TRIED TO COMMIT SUICIDE. LET'S HELP THE POOR GUY OUT...


WELL, WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!!
JUNGHE... WH-WHO ARE YOU?
ME? AKABOSHI, PRESIDENT OF THE RED STAR WEEKLY PAPER... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
I... I WAS KICKED BY A... A... HORSE... THERE WAS A WEIRD HORSE OVER THERE...
WHO EVER HEARD OF A HORSE WALKING AROUND TOKYO AT NIGHT?!
B-BUT I WASN'T DREAMING! IT WAS A STRANGE HORSE... ALL WHITE, WITH A GLOWING MANE!!
HA HA HAH... YOU MUST'VE BEEN DREAMING PROFESSOR...
WHA?! YOU FOUND MY BRIEFCASE BUT IT WAS OPEN?
IT WAS RIGHT HERE, SIR...
B-BUT I'D LOCKED IT!! WHAT'S GOING ON?
I HAD IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS IN HERE!
HUH?! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
SOMEBODY'S SOLVED A PROBLEM I WAS WORKING ON!
HOW TO MAKE CHANKO NABE
MIX DAIKON RADISH, CARROTS, GREEN ONIONS AND POTATO
368-0881
419-4699


SOMEBODY MUST'VE RIFLED THROUGH YOUR STUFF, PROFESSOR...
B-BUT HOW COULD ANYONE SOLVE A PROBLEM THIS COMPLEX?!
YOU KNOW, PROFESSOR... THIS COULD BE VERY BIG NEWS...
WHAT DO YOU SAY? I'LL HAVE MY COMPANY SEARCH FOR THE HORSE....
... IN EXCHANGE, YOU KEEP QUIET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT, OK?!
LATER, AT THE RED STAR WEEKLY ...
MORNING, MR. PRESIDENT, SIR...
GET EVERYONE TOGETHER FOR A MEETING! ON THE DOUBLE!
...SO THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING, MEN... I NEED EVERYONE TO TRY 'N FIND THE HORSE'S REAL IDENTIFY...
THIS IS TOP PRIORITY! ALL OTHER WORK'S GOTTA BE SHELVED!


B-BUT BOSS... DO YOU REALLY THINK USING ALL OF US TO HUNT FOR A HORSE IS A GOOD IDEA? THE OTHER WORK'S IMPORTANT, TOO...
IT'S AN ORDER, LUNKHEAD! WHEN I SAY "DO IT", DO IT! NOW!
IT'S HIT-THE-STREET TIME!
TUMBLEDY BUMP BUMP!
REPORTING TO BASE! FOUND A VAGRANT WHO SAYS HE SAW THE HORSE!
REPORTING TO BASE! FOUND A HORSE HAIR!
ZZZIP
WE'RE HERE TA SEE YOU, AKABOSHI ...
WELL, WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T MIKAZUKI, DON OF THE CRESCENT MOON GANG...
LISTEN, AKABOSHI... I'VE GOT A BONE TA PICK WITH YOU...
HIC
BUT WHAT WOULD THE CRESCENT MOON GANG HAVE AGAINST ME?
I'M SURE YOU KNOW!
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING... CHASING AFTER A HORSE, NEGLECTING YOUR REAL JOB?!

LISTEN, AKABOSHI! WHO D'YOU THINK PROVIDES THE PROTECTION FOR YOU TO DO YOUR WORK IN THIS WORLD?!
WITHOUT OUR HELP--THE HELP OF THE CRESCENT MOON GANG--YOU'RE TOAST! GOT IT?
HIC!
FLICK
AH SHADDUP, MIKAZUKI! I'VE GOT MY OWN PLANS FOR THIS!
SLAM
BAM
BAM
CLANK
CRASH
FWIP
SHWAK
SEE THAT MAP THERE, MIKAZUKI? THE HORSE'LL APPEAR IN THAT REGION!
BUT DON'T WORRY... THIS HORSE IS LIKE THE GOOSE THAT LAYS GOLDEN EGGS--IT'LL MAKE US RICH TO THE TUNE OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEN!

IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED...
IT'S TWO A.M.!
QUIET, GUYS... I THINK I HEAR HORSES' HOOVES...
READY WITH THE LASSO HERE...
HERE HE COMES!
WHOA... THAT'S NO ORDINARY CLIP CLOP ...
GOTCHA!!
GET 'IM, BOYS!!
HOLD HIM DOWN!!
HEY! WHO'S CHOKING ME?!
OWWWW!

Y-YIKES! THIS IS NO HORSE! IT'S A MONSTER!!
IT... IT'S GOT ARMS!!
WATCH OUT!
RUN FOR IT! HAALP!
FSSSHT
CLOPPITY CLOP CLOP CLOP
WHAT?! B-BUT I SENT YOU GUYS TO THE PARK LAST NIGHT TO CATCH THE HORSE!!
WHADDAYOUMEAN, YOU ALL FELL ASLEEP AND NOBODY REMEMBERS WHAT HAPPENED?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!!
WE THINK THE HORSE APPEARED...
...B-BUT WE'RE NOT REALLY SURE...
YOU USELESS SCUM! GO WASH UP 'N TRY AGAIN!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO REMEMBERS WHAT HAPPENED?
YESSIR... THE HORSE SPRAYED US WITH SOME GAS... THEN EVERYONE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS!
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?!!

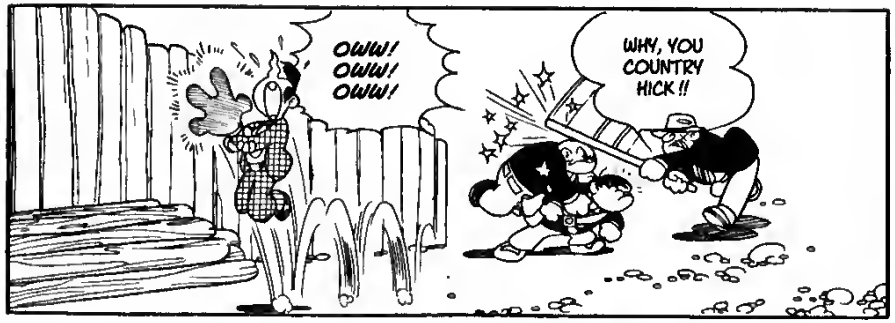
BOSS... YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE UP ON FINDING THIS HORSE!
WE'VE GOT ALL THIS OTHER WORK PILING UP!!
AW, SHADDUP, WILL YOU? YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND! THIS IS NO ORDINARY HORSE! WE'VE GOT TO KEEP SEARCHING FOR HIM!
I'LL FIND THAT HORSE, EVEN IF IT BANKRUPTS THE COMPANY!
HEY, ACORN!
GOSH, YOU SURE ARE STRONG!
LIKE A SUMO WRESTLER, HEY!
HMPH. THAT JERK JUST TRANSFERRED HERE, AND LOOK HOW POPULAR HE IS!
OKAY, AKABOSHI... YOU FOLLOW HIM HOME, AND TELL ME WHAT HE'S UP TO...
YES SIR!
LEAVE IT TO ME, SHIB!
GOSH, EVER SINCE YOU TRANSFERRED TO OUR SCHOOL, ACORN, ALL THE BADDIES 'N BULLIES'VE BEEN BACKING DOWN!
LATER, TAMAO....

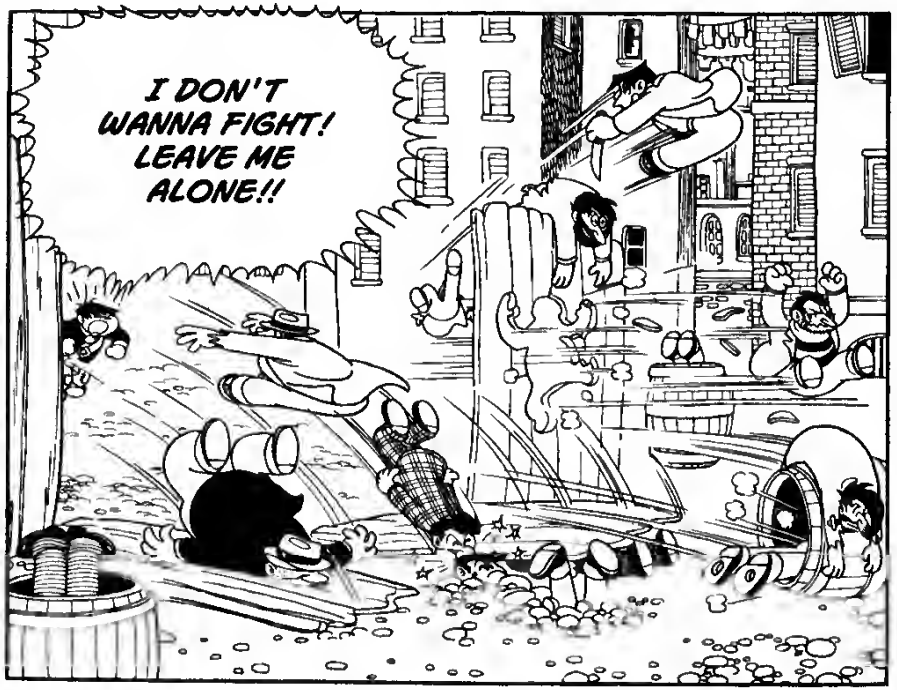
HOW'D YOU GET TO BE SO *STRONG*, ACORN? I WANNA KNOW....
LATER, TAMAO...
I'VE GOTTA FIND OUT WHERE HE LIVES 'N WHAT HE DOES TO GET THAT TOUGH...
SO *THAT'S* WHERE HE LIVES...
I'M HOME, GRANNY...
YOU'VE GOT AN ODD GUEST, ACORN....
WHO IS IT?
IT... IT'S.... ER...
SLIDE
WHAT THE --?!
NUU!!
I WAS AFRAID YOU YOU'D FORGOTTEN ME, ACORN!

I'M SO *BESIDE* MYSELF, I CAN'T STAND UP!
DON'T WORRY, GRANNY... THIS IS *NUU*, HERE. HE'S A FRIEND FROM WHEN I WAS IN HOKKAIDO!
AH, ACORN... I SEARCHED ALL OVER FOR YOU!
TO THINK YOU MADE IT ALL THE WAY FROM HOKKAIDO...
AS SOON AS I HEARD YOU WERE IN TOKYO, I STARTED SEARCHING...
CAN WE TREAT NUU TO SOME CARROTS, GRANNY?
I'M SO GLAD I *FOUND* YOU!
I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T LOST THE POWER I SHOWED YOU IN HOKKAIDO...
DON'T WORRY, NUU! IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE!
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T WASTE IT, ACORN...
YOU HAVE THE *POWER*, BUT NOT THE *WISDOM* TO CONTROL IT YET...
I CANNOT LEAVE YOU UNTIL I HAVE TAUGHT YOU EVERYTHING...
IT'S A *HORSE GHOST!*

HAALP!!
IT'S A HORSE GHOST!!!
A H-HORSE GHOST! A G-GHOST HORSE!
A WHAT HORSE?
IT... IT'S GOT HANDS AND TALKS, DAD!!
TELL ME WHERE YOU SAW THAT THING, SON! WHERE?!
GOSH, DAD... I... DIDN'T MEAN TO...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THAT HORSE ALL OVER!!
SLAM
FINALLY, I FIND OUT WHERE THE THING'S BEEN HIDING!!
HELLO? MIKAZUKI? LISTEN, I NEED SEVEN OR EIGHT ABLE-BODIED YOUNG MEN FROM YOUR GANG HERE IN A HURRY... I NEED THEM TO TAKE SOMEBODY HOSTAGE...

DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON, BUT I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THESE GUYS WHO'VE SURROUNDED ME LOOK....
FWOOSH
HERE WE GO...
NOT SO EASY, ACORN-HEAD....
WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE... YOU'RE COMING WITH US...
TAKE THIS!
SLAM

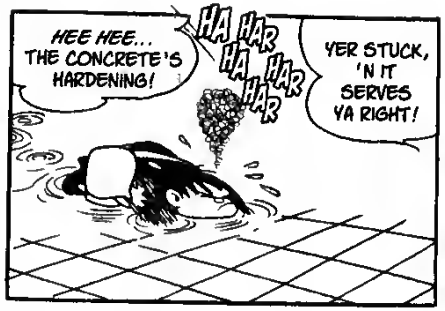

OWW! OWW! OWW!
WHY, YOU COUNTRY HICK!!

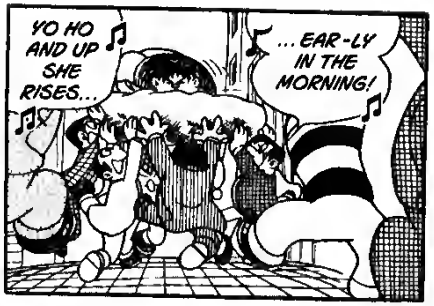

I DON'T WANNA FIGHT! LEAVE ME ALONE!!

HERE YA GO!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

YOU IDIOTS! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
CONSTRUCTION

GETTING OUT? JUST TRY!!


HEE HEE... THE CONCRETE'S HARDENING!
HA HAR HA HAR HAR
YER STUCK, 'N IT SERVES YA RIGHT!


YO HO AND UP SHE RISES...
...EAR-LY IN THE MORNING!

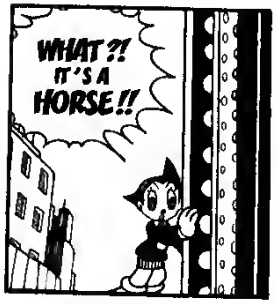
HERE HE IS, BOSS...

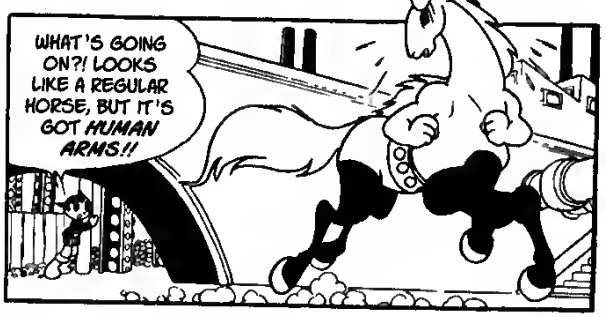
GOOD WORK MEN! WE'VE GOT THE PERFECT BAIT TO LURE THE HORSE HERE!
SO THIS IS THE KID WHO WAS TALKING TO THE HORSE, EH?

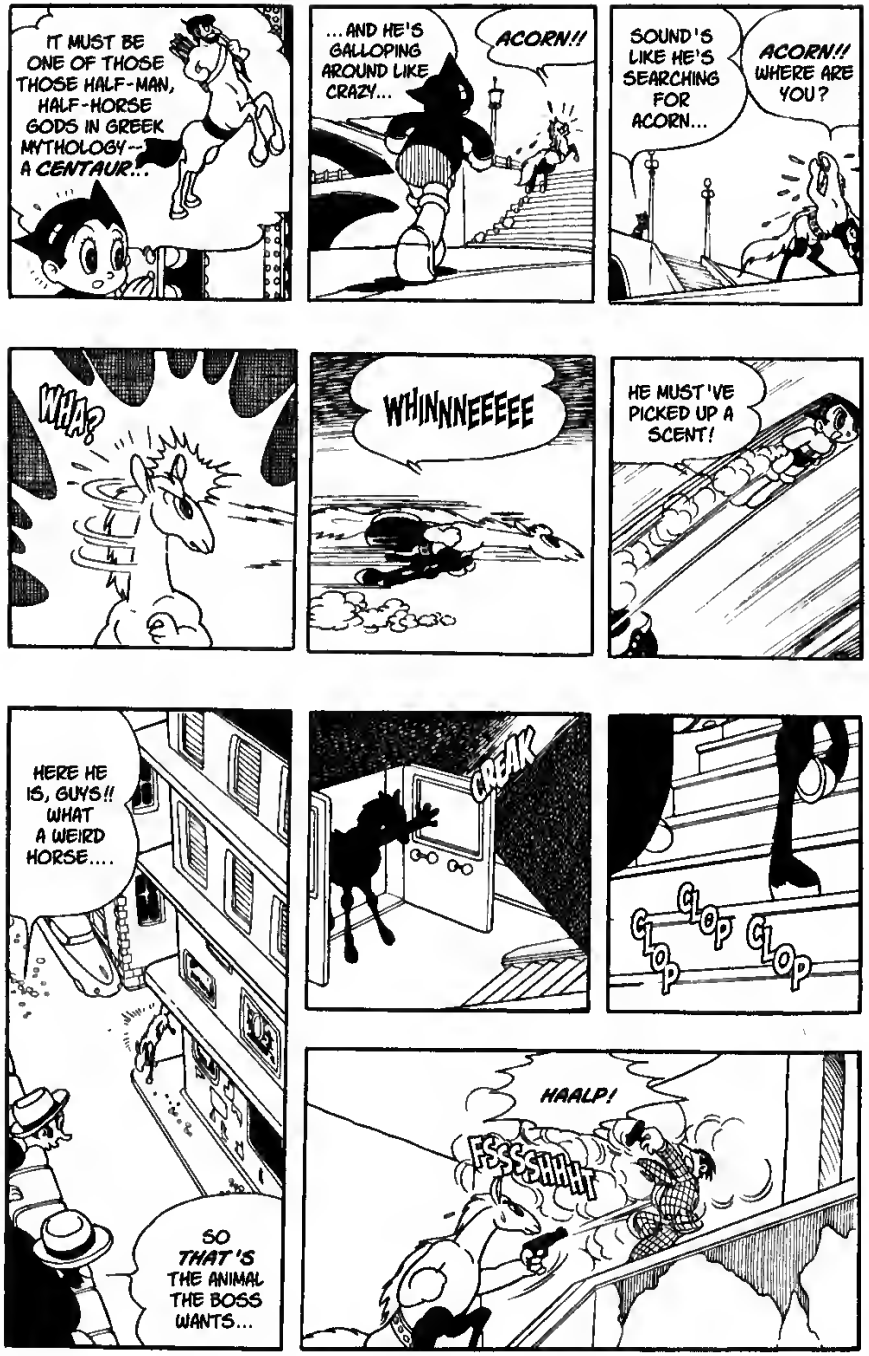
TWO OR THREE DAYS LATER...
GOSH, SURE IS STRANGE THAT ACORN SUDDENLY STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL ...

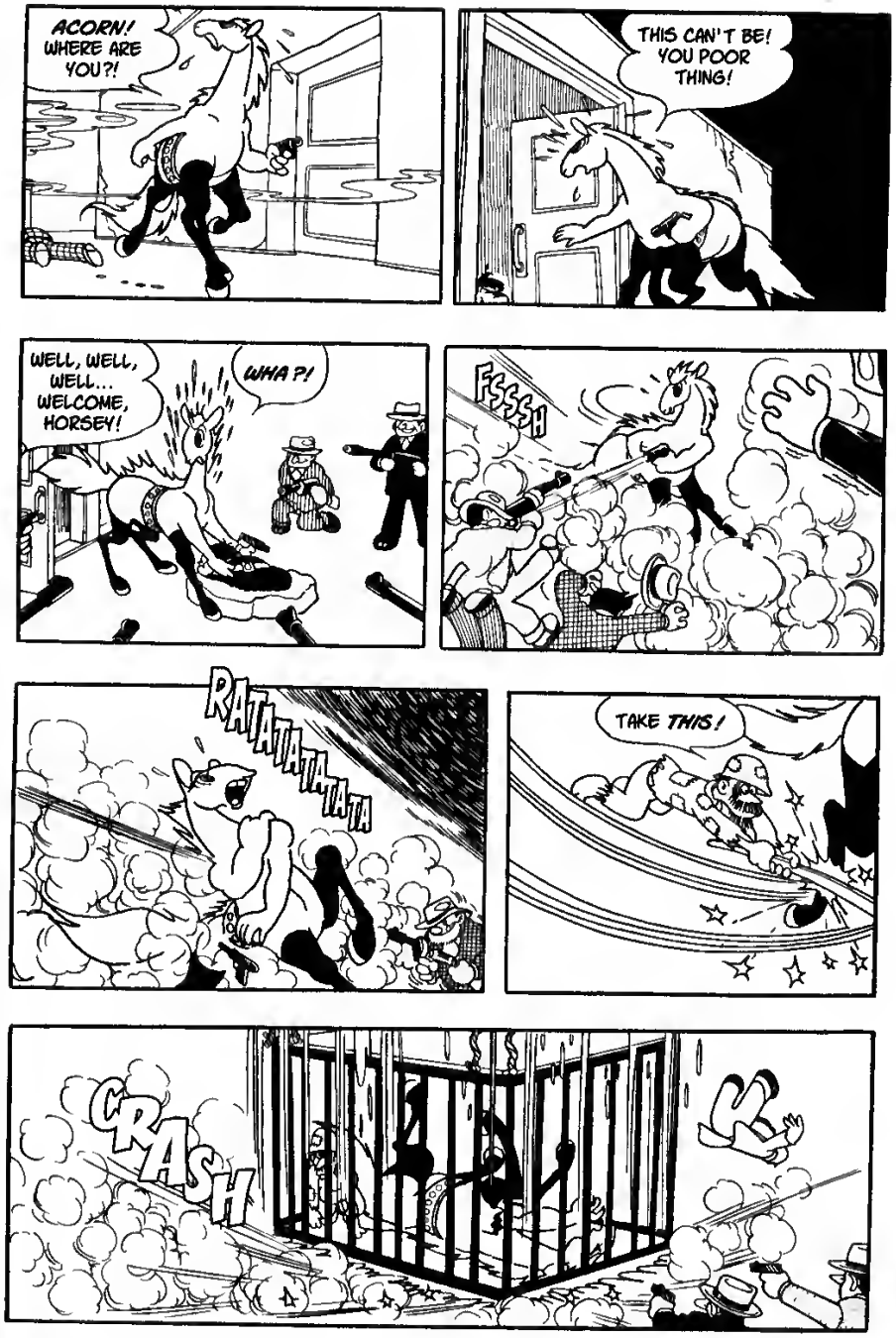
THEY SAY HE DISAPPEARED AROUND HERE....

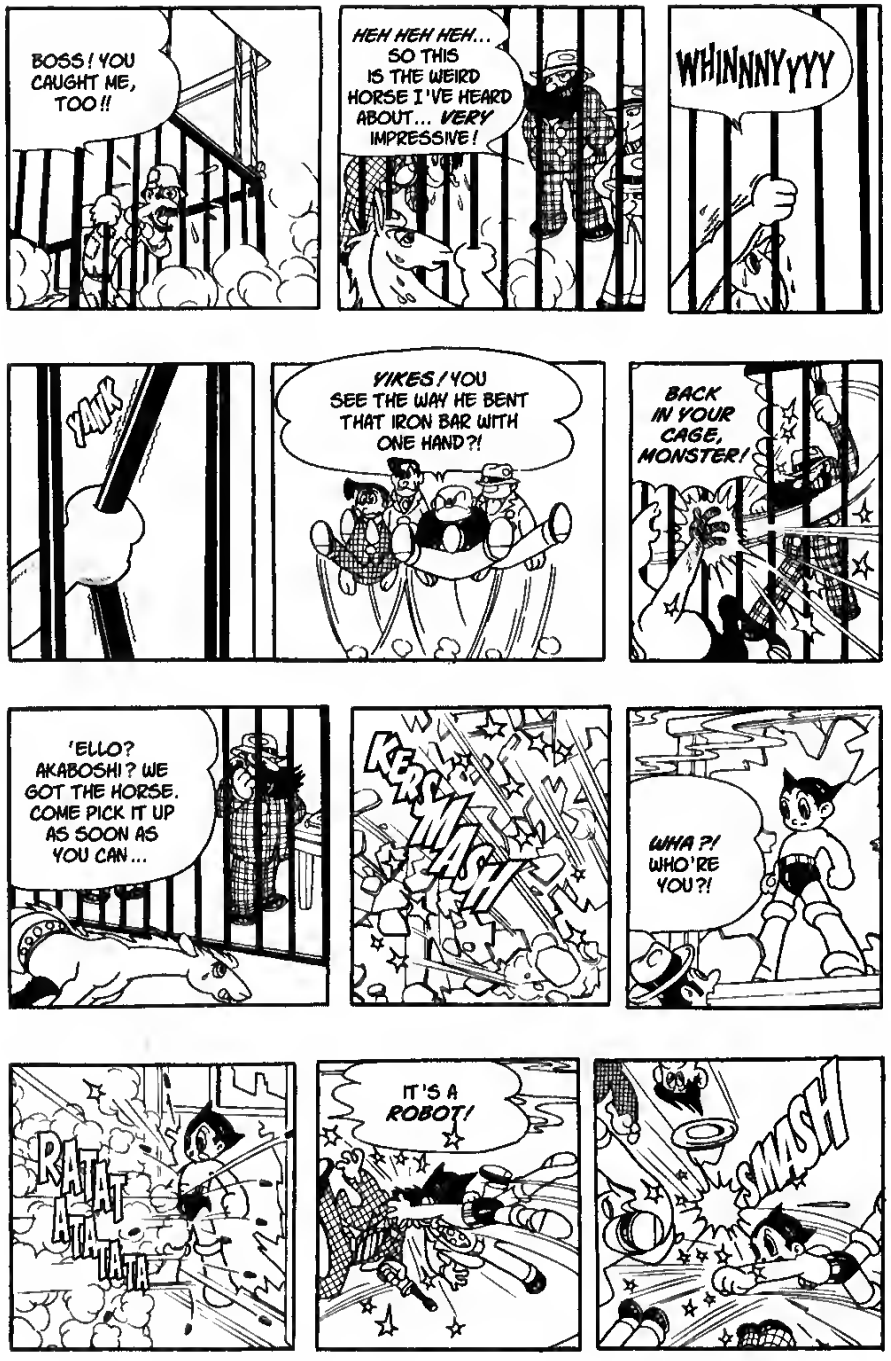
WHAT A SEC'... SEEMS LIKE I HEAR SOMEONE CALLING HIS NAME!


WHAT?! IT'S A HORSE!!

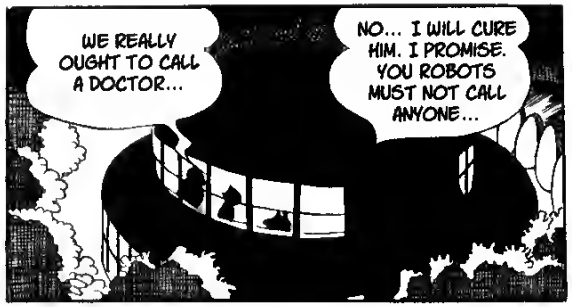

WHAT'S GOING ON?! LOOKS LIKE A REGULAR HORSE, BUT IT'S GOT HUMAN ARMS!!


IT MUST BE ONE OF THOSE THOSE HALF-MAN, HALF-HORSE GODS IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY-- A CENTAUR...
...AND HE'S GALLOPING AROUND LIKE CRAZY...
ACORN!!
SOUND'S LIKE HE'S SEARCHING FOR ACORN...
ACORN!! WHERE ARE YOU?
WHA?
WHINNNEEEEE
HE MUST'VE PICKED UP A SCENT!
HERE HE IS, GUYS!! WHAT A WEIRD HORSE....
SO THAT'S THE ANIMAL THE BOSS WANTS...
CREAK
CLOP CLOP CLOP
HAALP!
FSSSSHHH!!

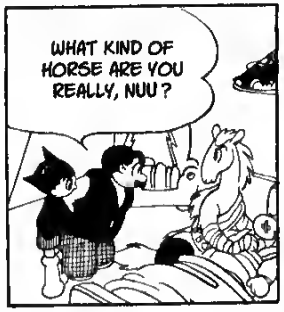

ACORN! WHERE ARE YOU?!
THIS CAN'T BE! YOU POOR THING!
WELL, WELL, WELL... WELCOME, HORSEY!
WHA?!
FSSSH
RATATATATATATA
TAKE THIS!
CRASH

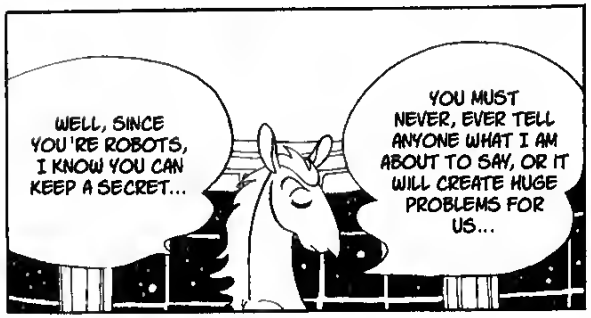

BOSS! YOU CAUGHT ME, TOO!!
HEH HEH HEH... SO THIS IS THE WEIRD HORSE I'VE HEARD ABOUT... VERY IMPRESSIVE!
WHINNNYYYY
YANK
YIKES! YOU SEE THE WAY HE BENT THAT IRON BAR WITH ONE HAND?!
BACK IN YOUR CAGE, MONSTER!
'ELLO? AKABOSHI? WE GOT THE HORSE. COME PICK IT UP AS SOON AS YOU CAN...
KER-MASH
WHA?! WHO'RE YOU?!
RATATATATATA
IT'S A ROBOT!
SMASH

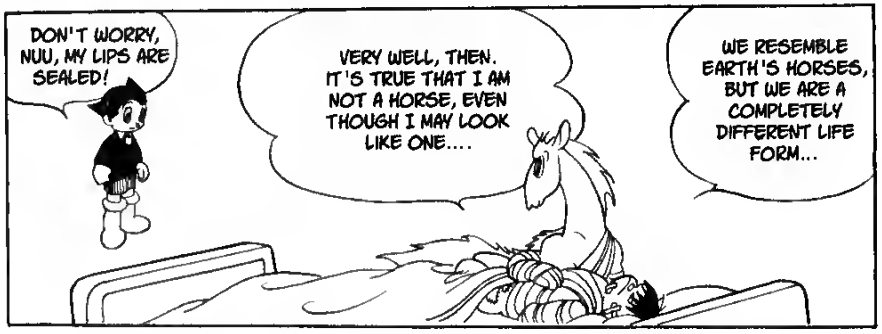
HALP! HAALP!!
WHOOPS- A-DAISY!
DON'T WORRY, ACORN! IT'S ME! I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!
FIRST, TO CONK THIS CONCRETE....
... AND GET YOU OUT OF THIS MESS!
OWW!... IT HURTS...
ACORN! IT'S ME, OVER HERE!
NUU!! NUU!
BOTH OF YOU ARE INJURED!
I'VE GOTTA GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL...
NO! I CAN'T LET HUMANS SEE ME!!
WE'LL TREAT YOU AT MY HOUSE, THEN!!
.....
.....
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY, 'CUZ I'M NOT A HUMAN MYSELF...
RATS! JUST WHEN WE GET THE HORSE, THAT BLASTED ROBO-BOY STEALS IT AWAY!!


WE REALLY OUGHT TO CALL A DOCTOR...
NO... I WILL CURE HIM. I PROMISE. YOU ROBOTS MUST NOT CALL ANYONE...

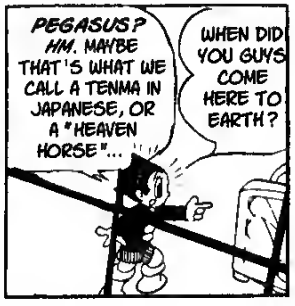
BUT YOU'RE INJURED YOURSELF, NUU...
YES, BUT *MY* BODY WILL CURE ITSELF...

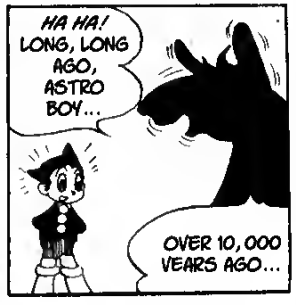

WHAT KIND OF HORSE ARE YOU REALLY, NUU?


WELL, SINCE YOU'RE ROBOTS, I KNOW YOU CAN KEEP A SECRET...
YOU MUST NEVER, EVER TELL ANYONE WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY, OR IT WILL CREATE HUGE PROBLEMS FOR US...


DON'T WORRY, NUU, MY LIPS ARE SEALED!
VERY WELL, THEN. IT'S TRUE THAT I AM NOT A HORSE, EVEN THOUGH I MAY LOOK LIKE ONE....
WE RESEMBLE EARTH'S HORSES, BUT WE ARE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LIFE FORM...

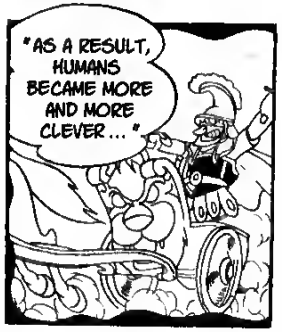
WE COME FROM THE CONSTELLATION, *PEGASUS* IN *OUTER SPACE!*


PEGASUS? *HM.* MAYBE THAT'S WHAT WE CALL A TENMA IN JAPANESE, OR A "HEAVEN HORSE"...
WHEN DID YOU GUYS COME HERE TO EARTH?

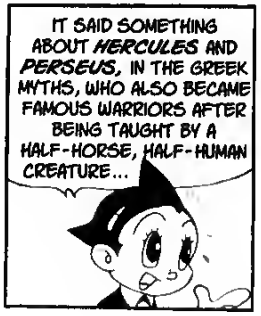

HA HA! LONG, LONG AGO, ASTRO BOY...
OVER 10,000 YEARS AGO...

"HUMANS WERE STILL PRIMITIVE SAVAGES THEN!"

"WE TAUGHT THE HUMANS MANY THINGS, LIKE HUNTING AND THE CALENDAR AND WRITING, AND WE BECAME FRIENDS WITH THEM."

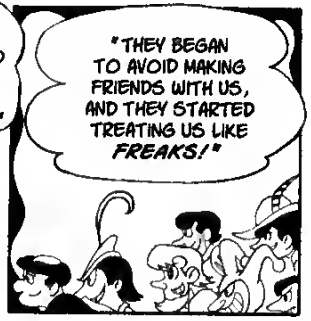

"AS A RESULT, HUMANS BECAME MORE AND MORE CLEVER..."

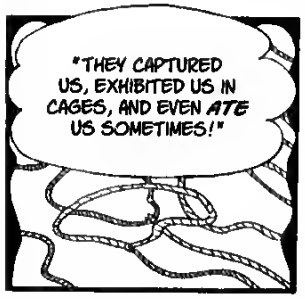
HMM... COME TO THINK OF IT ....
...I THINK I READ ABOUT YOU IN ONE OF MY SCHOOL-BOOKS...

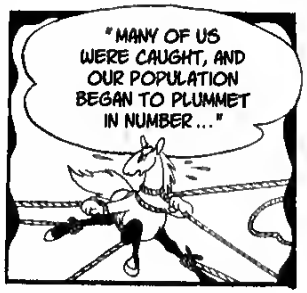

IT SAID SOMETHING ABOUT *HERCULES* AND *PERSEUS*, IN THE GREEK MYTHS, WHO ALSO BECAME FAMOUS WARRIORS AFTER BEING TAUGHT BY A HALF-HORSE, HALF-HUMAN CREATURE...

THAT IS RIGHT... AND *HUMAN CHILDREN* WERE ALWAYS OUR *SPECIAL FRIENDS* ...

"BUT EVENTUALLY, AS THE HUMANS BECAME SMARTER AND SMARTER, THEY STARTED TO HATE US..."

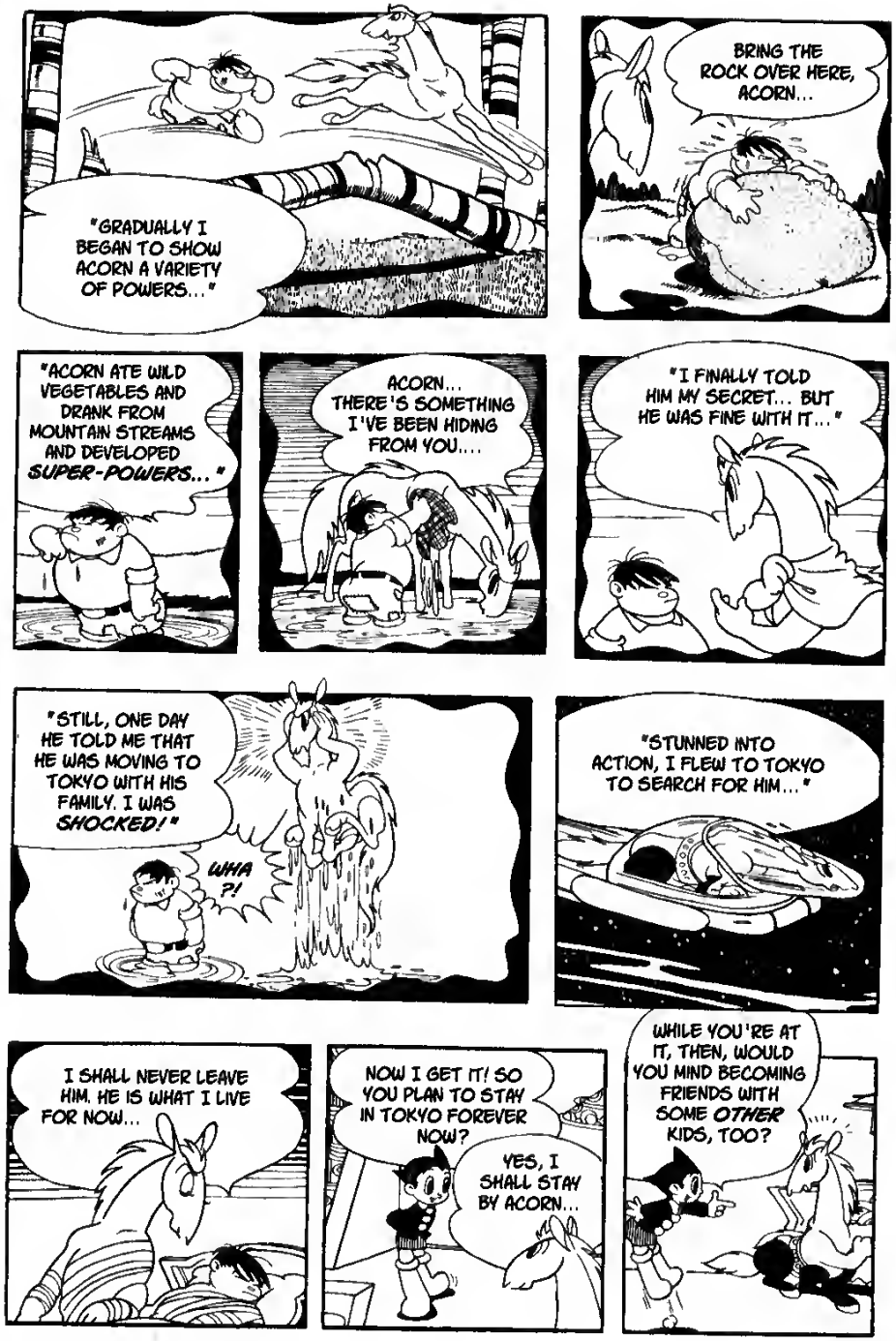

"THEY BEGAN TO AVOID MAKING FRIENDS WITH US, AND THEY STARTED TREATING US LIKE *FREAKS!*"

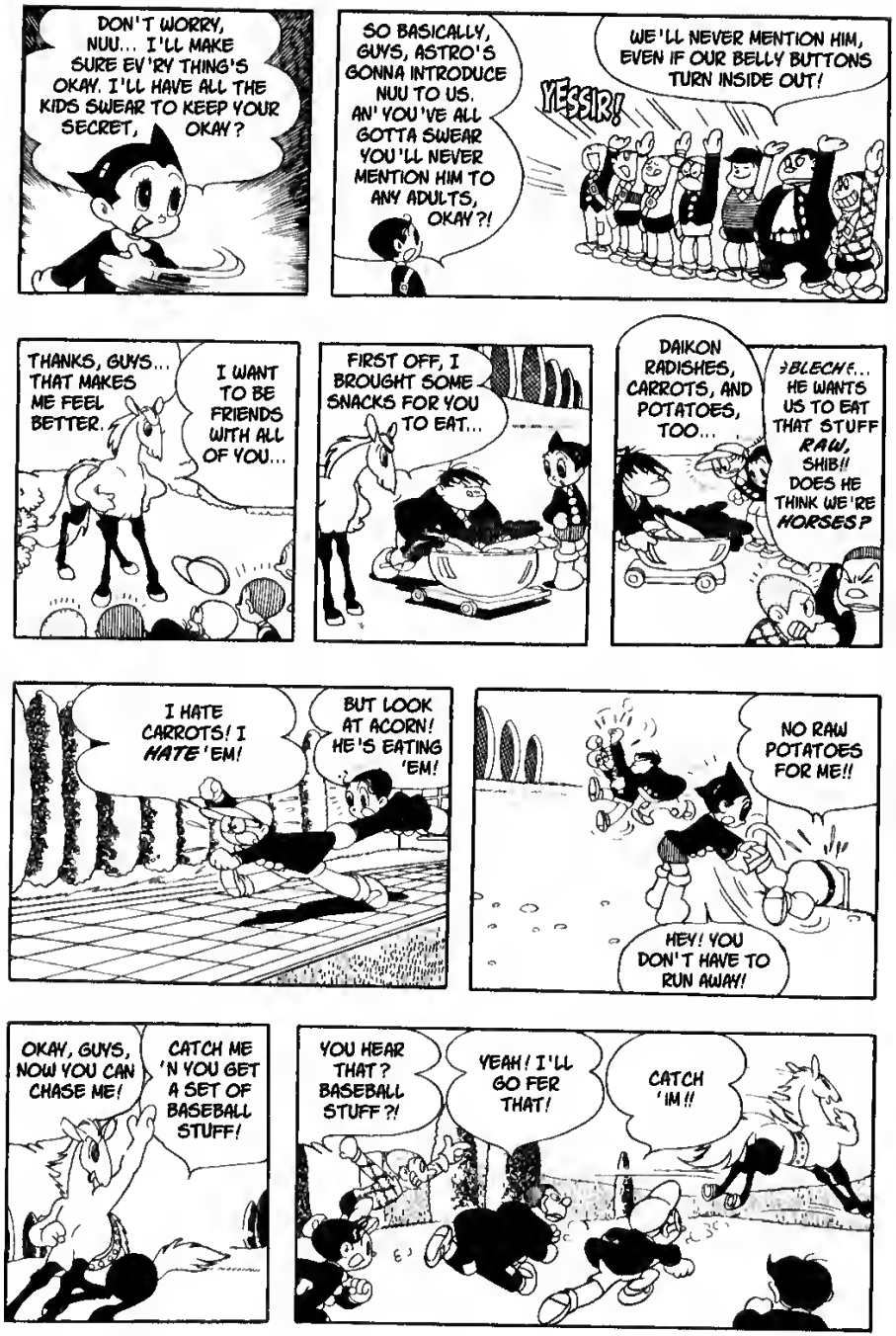

"THEY CAPTURED US, EXHIBITED US IN CAGES, AND EVEN *ATE* US SOMETIMES!"


"MANY OF US WERE CAUGHT, AND OUR POPULATION BEGAN TO PLUMMET IN NUMBER..."

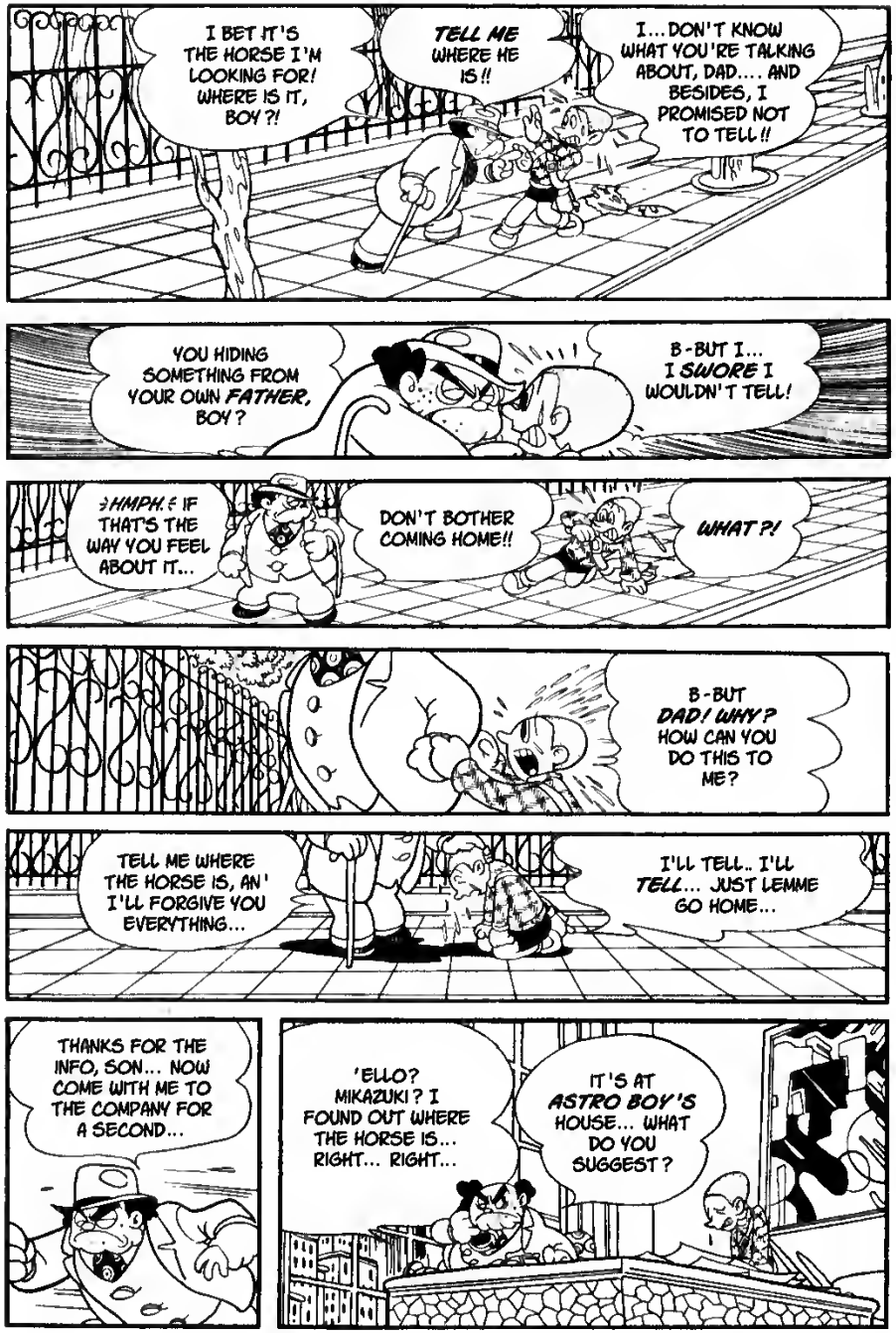
"WE BECAME DISGUSTED WITH HUMANS AND RETURNED TO OUR HOME PLANET."

"STILL, SOME OF US WHO COULDN'T FORGET THE HUMAN CHILDREN WHO WERE OUR FRIENDS, DECIDED TO RETURN TO EARTH AFTER ALL..."
"JUST IN CASE, WE TOOK WITH US SPECIAL GAS PISTOLS, WHICH COULD BE USED ON HUMANS!"
"IF ANYONE SPOTTED US, THE GAS MADE SURE THEY FORGOT HAVING EVER SEEN US--THE HEAVEN-HORSES, THE TENMA TRIBE!"
"UP UNTIL NOW, THOSE OF US WHO RETURNED TO EARTH HAVE BEEN HIDING DEEP IN A MOUNTAIN FORTRESS. ONLY OCCASIONALLY DO WE COME DOWN TO WHERE PEOPLE LIVE..."
"THEN WE PLAY WITH A FEW CHILDREN AND HELP THEM GROW TO BE STRONG AND TO BE CLEVER..."
"I, TOO, ONCE DESCENDED TO A VALLEY AND SPOTTED A WONDERFUL BOY WORKING ON A RANCH..."
"I DISGUISED MYSELF AS AN ORDINARY HORSE..."
"I WENT UP TO HIM, AND WE QUICKLY BECAME FRIENDS..."
"THE BOY WAS KURI-TARO, OR 'ACORN' ..."
"WE RAN AROUND THE HILLS AND FIELDS AND PLAYED TO OUR HEARTS CONTENT."

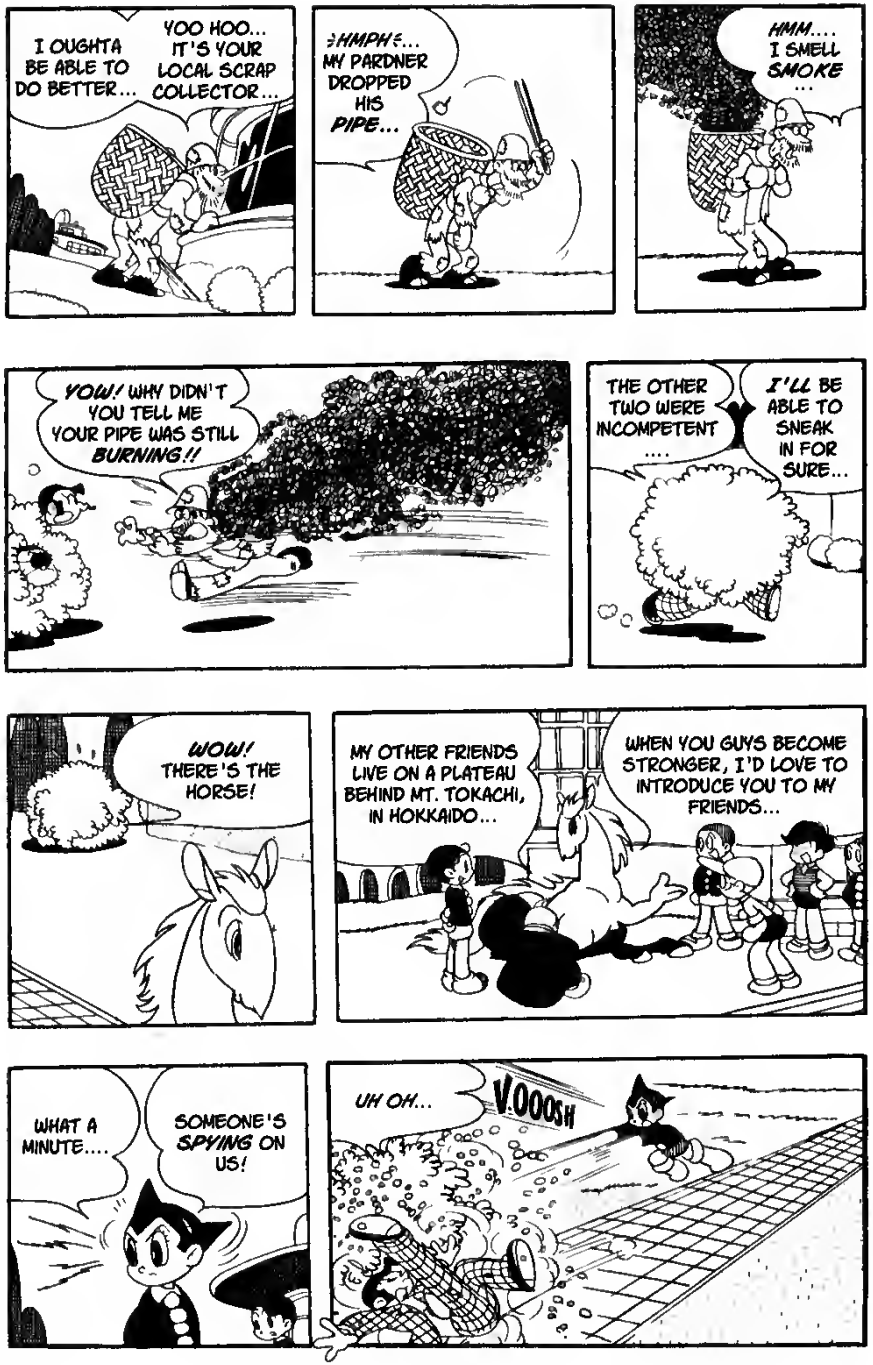

"GRADUALLY I BEGAN TO SHOW ACORN A VARIETY OF POWERS..."
BRING THE ROCK OVER HERE, ACORN...
"ACORN ATE WILD VEGETABLES AND DRANK FROM MOUNTAIN STREAMS AND DEVELOPED SUPER-POWERS..."
ACORN... THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN HIDING FROM YOU....
"I FINALLY TOLD HIM MY SECRET... BUT HE WAS FINE WITH IT..."
"STILL, ONE DAY HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS MOVING TO TOKYO WITH HIS FAMILY. I WAS SHOCKED!"
WHA ?!
"STUNNED INTO ACTION, I FLEW TO TOKYO TO SEARCH FOR HIM..."
I SHALL NEVER LEAVE HIM. HE IS WHAT I LIVE FOR NOW...
NOW I GET IT! SO YOU PLAN TO STAY IN TOKYO FOREVER NOW?
YES, I SHALL STAY BY ACORN...
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, THEN, WOULD YOU MIND BECOMING FRIENDS WITH SOME OTHER KIDS, TOO?


DON'T WORRY, NUU... I'LL MAKE SURE EV'RY THING'S OKAY. I'LL HAVE ALL THE KIDS SWEAR TO KEEP YOUR SECRET, OKAY?
SO BASICALLY, GUYS, ASTRO'S GONNA INTRODUCE NUU TO US. AN' YOU'VE ALL GOTTA SWEAR YOU'LL NEVER MENTION HIM TO ANY ADULTS, OKAY?!
WE'LL NEVER MENTION HIM, EVEN IF OUR BELLY BUTTONS TURN INSIDE OUT!
YESSIR!
THANKS, GUYS... THAT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.
I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH ALL OF YOU...
FIRST OFF, I BROUGHT SOME SNACKS FOR YOU TO EAT...
DAIKON RADISHES, CARROTS, AND POTATOES, TOO...
BLECH!... HE WANTS US TO EAT THAT STUFF RAW, SHIB!! DOES HE THINK WE'RE HORSES?
I HATE CARROTS! I HATE 'EM!
BUT LOOK AT ACORN! HE'S EATING 'EM!
NO RAW POTATOES FOR ME!!
HEY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN AWAY!
OKAY, GUYS, NOW YOU CAN CHASE ME!
CATCH ME 'N YOU GET A SET OF BASEBALL STUFF!
YOU HEAR THAT? BASEBALL STUFF?!
YEAH! I'LL GO FER THAT!
CATCH 'IM!!

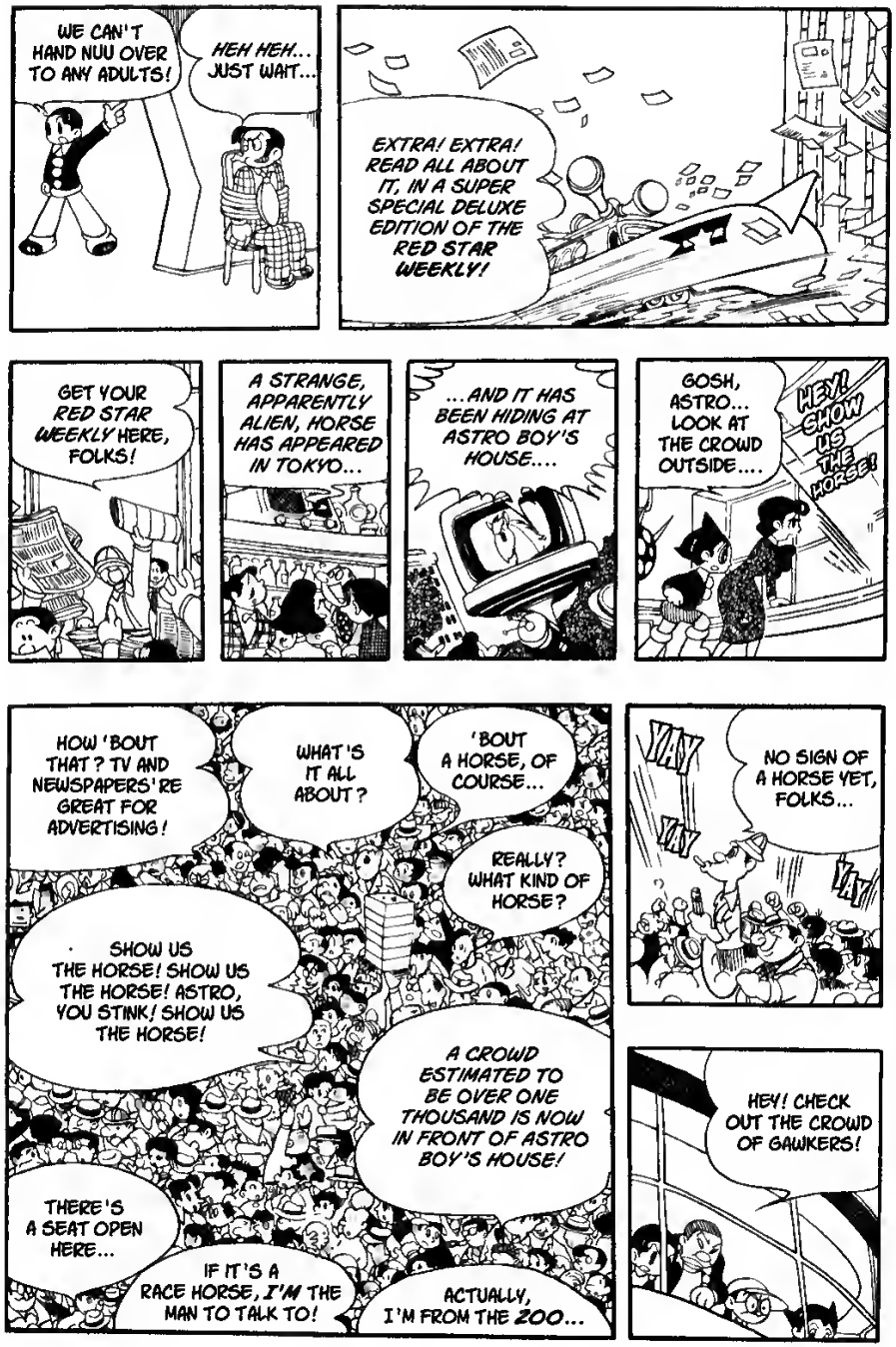
WHOOPS-A-DAISY!
I'LL GET 'IM! AND A BASE-BALL...
...GLOVE...
WOW... I'M EX-HAUSTED. I NEED WATER!
I'LL GO GET SOME FOR YOU, SHIB...
GOSH, AFTER GETTING THAT THIRSTY, EVEN THIS DAIKON RADISH TASTES PRETTY GOOD....
GEE, MOM... I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW HUNGRY I AM.
B... BUT YOU'VE HAD TWELVE BOWLS OF RICE ALREADY, KEN!
WONDER WHY ALL THE BOYS'RE EATING DAIKON RADISHES 'N CARROTS THESE DAYS?
MUST BE SOME WEIRD FAD...
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE CHEWING ON, SON?
LOOKS LIKE RAW CARROTS!
OH, HI, DAD... I LEARNED THIS FROM A HORSE...
HM. FROM A HORSE, EH? HOW ODD. WHAT KIND OF HORSE?
HORSE? GOSH, DAD... I NEVER MENTIONED ANY HORSE...


I BET IT'S THE HORSE I'M LOOKING FOR! WHERE IS IT, BOY?!
TELL ME WHERE HE IS!!
I...DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, DAD.... AND BESIDES, I PROMISED NOT TO TELL!!
YOU HIDING SOMETHING FROM YOUR OWN FATHER, BOY?
B-BUT I... I SWORE I WOULDN'T TELL!
HMPH.! IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT IT...
DON'T BOTHER COMING HOME!!
WHAT?!
B-BUT DAD! WHY? HOW CAN YOU DO THIS TO ME?
TELL ME WHERE THE HORSE IS, AN' I'LL FORGIVE YOU EVERYTHING...
I'LL TELL.. I'LL TELL... JUST LEMME GO HOME...
THANKS FOR THE INFO, SON... NOW COME WITH ME TO THE COMPANY FOR A SECOND...
'ELLO? MIKAZUKI? I FOUND OUT WHERE THE HORSE IS... RIGHT... RIGHT...
IT'S AT ASTRO BOY'S HOUSE... WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

SO THAT'S WHERE HE IS, EH? THE ROBOTS' VE BEEN SHELTERING HIM, HUH? JUST AS I SUSPECTED...
WELL DONE. THERE'S ALL KINDS OF WAYS TO CATCH HIM WITHOUT GETTING TOO ROUGH...
OKAY, GUYS... I WANT YOU TO CASE OUT ASTRO'S HOUSE....
YES SIR...
HOW COME WE ALWAYS GET STUCK WITH THE LOUSY JOBS...?
'CUZ WE'RE THE HENCHMEN, THAT'S WHY...
THERE'S ASTRO'S HOUSE...
ER, S'CUSE ME...
IT'S YER LOCAL UNWANTED SALESMAN...
ASTRO
SO, MA'AM... WE BADLY NEED YOU TO BUY SOMETHING, SEE?
YOU DO?
B...BUT AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO TELL US WHAT TO BUY?
WHOOPS! I FORGOT TO BRING THE PRODUCT!! HEH HEH...
A SALESMAN WITHOUT ANYTHING TO SELL? YOU IDIOT!
OKAY, NEXT!
MY TURN...


I OUGHTA BE ABLE TO DO BETTER...
YOO HOO... IT'S YOUR LOCAL SCRAP COLLECTOR...
:HMPH:... MY PARDNER DROPPED HIS PIPE...
HMM.... I SMELL SMOKE ...
YOW! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOUR PIPE WAS STILL BURNING!!
THE OTHER TWO WERE INCOMPETENT ....
I'LL BE ABLE TO SNEAK IN FOR SURE...
WOW! THERE'S THE HORSE!
MY OTHER FRIENDS LIVE ON A PLATEAU BEHIND MT. TOKACHI, IN HOKKAIDO...
WHEN YOU GUYS BECOME STRONGER, I'D LOVE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY FRIENDS...
WHAT A MINUTE....
SOMEONE'S SPYING ON US!
UH OH...
V.OOOSH

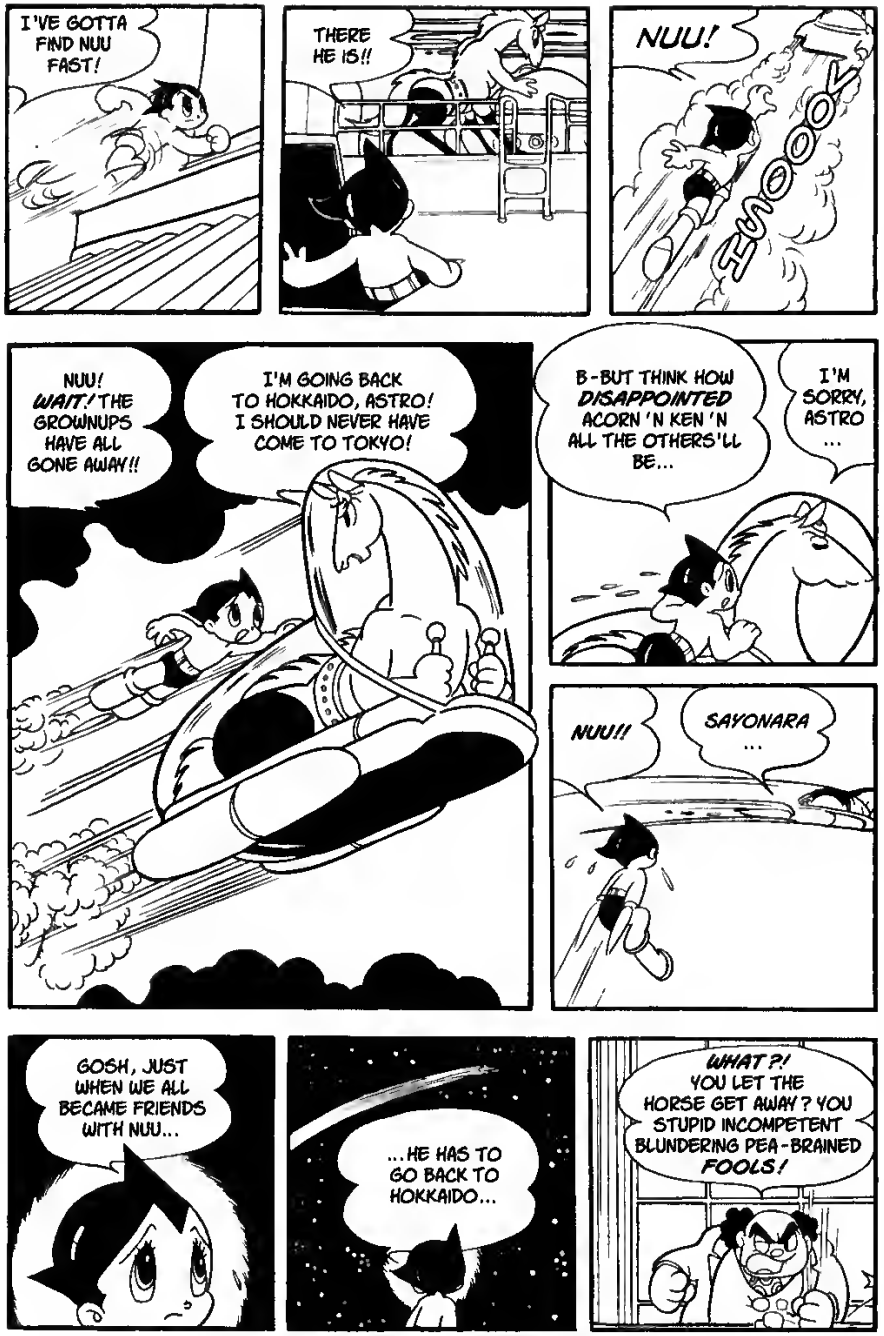
YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE GANG-STERS, AREN'T YOU?!
AW, SHUCKS. HOW'D YOU KNOW?
HOW'D YOU KNOW WE WERE HERE? WHO TOLD YOU?!
I... I DUNNO NOTHIN'!
GONNA HAND ME OVER TO THE COPS? WELL, JUST TRY!! HEH HEH. I'LL TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THE HORSE!
IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL, WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP YOU HERE FOR AWHILE... LOCK HIM UP, ACORN!
RRRING
IS ASTRO BOY THERE? I NEED TO SPEAK TO HIM...
HELLO ?
HELLO?
ASTRO... YOU'VE GOT A HORSE IN YOUR HOUSE, DON'T YOU?
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE'D YOU HEAR THAT ?
HEH HEH... THAT PUNK YOU CAUGHT IS ONE OF MY HENCH-MEN... AND IF YOU DON'T HAND OVER THE HORSE, I'LL BLAB ABOUT IT TO THE PAPERS!
WE'VE GOT A REAL PROBLEM, GUYS. IF THE PAPERS WRITE ANYTHING ABOUT NUU, THERE'LL BE NO END TO IT...
I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS, SO THE BEST THING'S FOR ME TO RETURN TO THE MOUNTAINS.
NO! NUU! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
YEAH! NO WAY! WE'LL PROTECT YOU HERE!
...
...


WE CAN'T HAND NUU OVER TO ANY ADULTS!
HEH HEH... JUST WAIT...
EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT, IN A SUPER SPECIAL DELUXE EDITION OF THE RED STAR WEEKLY!
GET YOUR RED STAR WEEKLY HERE, FOLKS!
A STRANGE, APPARENTLY ALIEN, HORSE HAS APPEARED IN TOKYO...
...AND IT HAS BEEN HIDING AT ASTRO BOY'S HOUSE....
GOSH, ASTRO... LOOK AT THE CROWD OUTSIDE....
HEY! SHOW US THE HORSE!
HOW 'BOUT THAT? TV AND NEWSPAPERS' RE GREAT FOR ADVERTISING!
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
'BOUT A HORSE, OF COURSE...
REALLY? WHAT KIND OF HORSE?
SHOW US THE HORSE! SHOW US THE HORSE! ASTRO, YOU STINK! SHOW US THE HORSE!
A CROWD ESTIMATED TO BE OVER ONE THOUSAND IS NOW IN FRONT OF ASTRO BOY'S HOUSE!
THERE'S A SEAT OPEN HERE...
IF IT'S A RACE HORSE, I'M THE MAN TO TALK TO!
ACTUALLY, I'M FROM THE ZOO...
YAY!
NO SIGN OF A HORSE YET, FOLKS...
HEY! CHECK OUT THE CROWD OF GAWKERS!

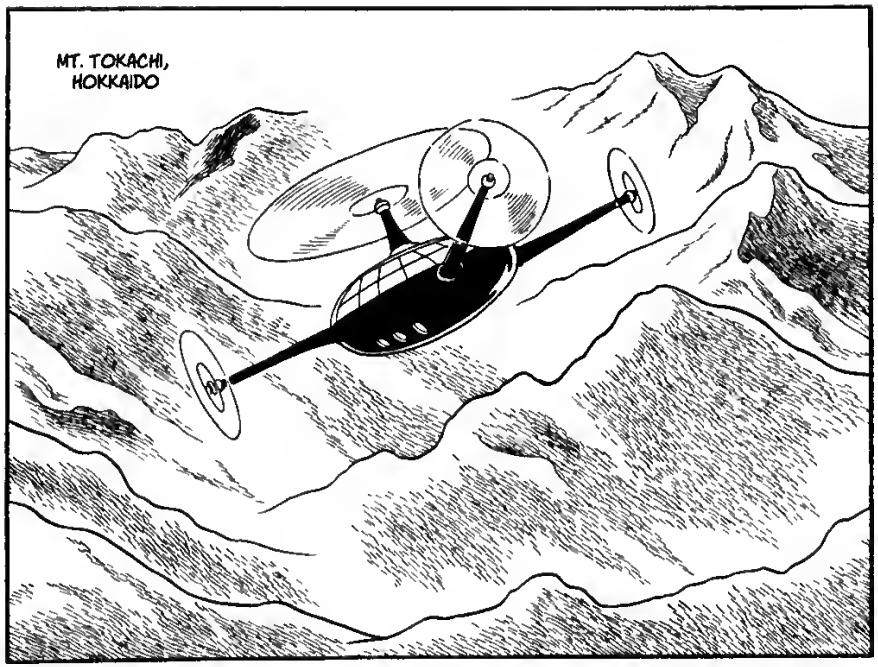
THE CROWD IS STARTING TO SCREAM IN EXCITEMENT...
GRRRR
WHAT DO YOU SAY, ASTRO? 'BOUT TIME TO PUT UP AND HAND OVER THE HORSE, NO?
DAD! I KNOW IT'S YOU! IT'S YOUR SON HERE! LISTEN, YOU'RE NOT BEING FAIR TO NUU!
SO THAT'S WHERE YOU ARE, SON.... WELL, TELL ASTRO BOY TO HAND OVER THE HORSE!
SHOW US THE HORSE! HEY!
YAY!
B-BUT DAD! I'M ON NUU'S SIDE!! I'D DIE IF I HAD TO HAND HIM OVER!
LISTEN, SON... YOUR DAD CAN BECOME REAL FAMOUS WITH THAT HORSE!
DAD! WHY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!!
GET THIS STRAIGHT, SIR.... NO MATTER HOW BIG AND NOISY THE CROWD OUTSIDE, WE'RE NOT GONNA HAND OVER THE HORSE! GOT IT?
LISTEN, KID... YOU REALLY THINK ANY ADULT'S NOT GONNA BE INTERESTED IN A HORSE LIKE THAT?
HEH HEH HEH... THAT'S ASTRO ON THE ROOF...
BRING OUT THE HORSE, ASTRO! WE WANNA SEE HIM!
YAY!
YAY!
YAY!
HEY! GIVE US THE HORSE!
HEY, WHERE'S HE GOING?
THAT IDIOT ROBOT!
HEH HEH HEH.... WHAT A HOOPLA, AND THE MORE THE MERRIER! I CAN SEE MY CASH REGISTERS RINGING!

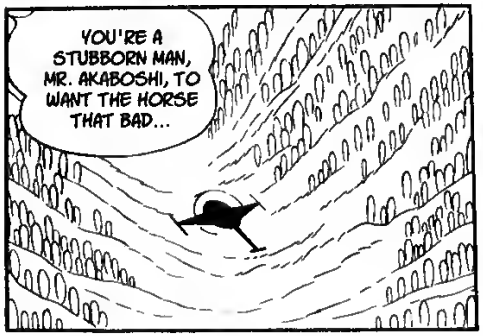
WELL, FOLKS.... THE CROWD'S READY TO CHARGE INTO THE HOUSE IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO SEE THE HORSE, BUT ASTRO BOY JUST TOOK OFF AND LEFT THEM BEHIND!
LET'S GO!
GET THE HORSE! YEAH!
I CAN'T STAND THIS! LET'S CHARGE THE HOUSE!
YEAH! WE'LL BREAK IN!
LET'S HAUL OUT THE HORSE! TAKE 'IM TO THE ZOO!
OW! OWW OWW!!
FOLKS, WE'VE GOT A REAL RIOT ON OUR HANDS!
SMASH THE WINDOWS! STORM THE HOUSE!
SMASH
CRASH
SMASH
WE'LL CHARGE IN FROM THE FRONT AND BACK AND CUT 'EM OFF!
WE'LL TRAP 'EM INSIDE!!
WE'VE GOTTA PROTECT ASTRO'S HOUSE FROM THE RIOTERS, MEN! PUSH 'EM BACK!
YIKES! HE'S SHOOTING GAS AT US!
FSSSHT

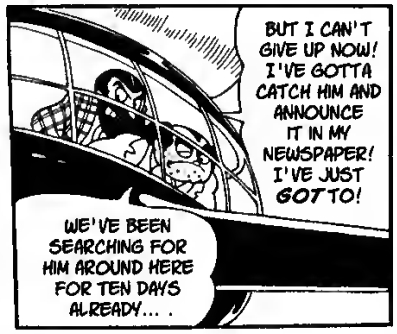
YOU GIVE ME NO CHOICE!!
ESSSHHT
INSPECTOR NAKAMURA! DON'T LET THE CROWD DESTROY MY HOUSE!
HEAR THAT MEN? MAKE SURE YOU TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF ON ENTERING!
IT'S ME, DAD!
I BROUGHT THE POLICE!
ASTRO! NUU SPRAYED THE CROWD WITH GAS AND ESCAPED!
GAS? POISON GAS?
EVERYONE'S COLLAPSED!
HUMAN GROWNUPS SURE ARE STUPID! THEY SHOULD'VE KNOWN THIS'D HAPPEN!
EVEN INSPECTOR NAKAMURA'S OUT COLD!
UNGHH
...
NUU ESCAPED, INSPECTOR! EVERYONE ELSE COLLAPSED, LIKE YOU...
WHAT'S NUU, ASTRO?
HE'S A HORSE, INSPECTOR! I THOUGHT I EXPLAINED IT TO YOU!
A HORSE? WHADDAYOU MEAN? FUNNY, I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING...
UH OH... THE COPS'RE HERE...
EVERYONE HERE'S ORDERED TO DISPERSE IMMEDIATELY!


I'VE GOTTA FIND NUU FAST!
THERE HE IS!!
NUU!
G-NOOOW
NUU! WAIT! THE GROWNUPS HAVE ALL GONE AWAY!!
I'M GOING BACK TO HOKKAIDO, ASTRO! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO TOKYO!
B-BUT THINK HOW DISAPPOINTED ACORN 'N KEN 'N ALL THE OTHERS'LL BE...
I'M SORRY, ASTRO ...
NUU!!
SAYONARA ...
GOSH, JUST WHEN WE ALL BECAME FRIENDS WITH NUU...
...HE HAS TO GO BACK TO HOKKAIDO...
WHAT?! YOU LET THE HORSE GET AWAY? YOU STUPID INCOMPETENT BLUNDERING PEA-BRAINED FOOLS!

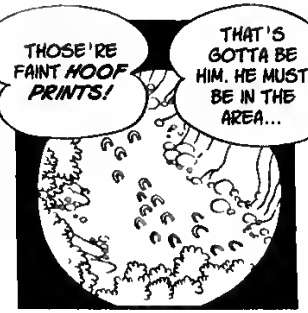
I STAKED THE FATE OF THE RED STAR WEEKLY ON CAPTURING THIS HORSE!!
SORRY, SIR, BUT WE DON'T REMEMBER A THING. WHAT HORSE ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHEN WE CAME TO, WE WERE TAKING A NAP IN FRONT OF ASTRO BOY'S HOUSE.
THIS HAPPENS TO EVERYONE WHO MEETS THAT HORSE!
THEY ALL FORGET WHAT HAPPENED!!
BUT I WANNA KNOW WHAT HAPPENED... WHAT'D THE HORSE DO TO YOU!?
THIS MIKAZUKI? IT'S ME, AKABOSHI... WHAT? HMM...
HOKKAIDO? YOU SURE? WHO TOLD YOU?
SO THE BLASTED HORSE ESCAPED TO HOKKAIDO!
MY INSIDE SOURCE TELLS ME HE RAN OFF SOMEWHERE NEAR MT. TOKACHI... HEH HEH... GOOD FOOTWORK, NO?
YEAH, HOW'D YOU FIND OUT?
I DON'T CARE WHETHER HE WENT TO MT. TOKACHI OR HABOMAI... I'LL TRACK HIM DOWN!
EASY! WE JUST TURNED THE SCREWS ON OSAMU TEZUKA...
LISTEN, MIKAZUKI! I'VE GOT TO GO THERE...
I'VE GOT TO CATCH THAT HORSE, OR I'LL LOSE FACE!

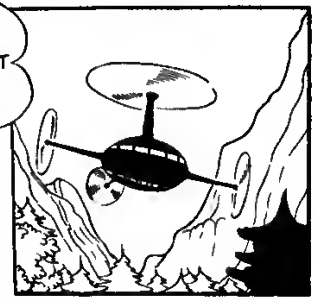

MT. TOKACHI, HOKKAIDO


YOU'RE A STUBBORN MAN, MR. AKABOSHI, TO WANT THE HORSE THAT BAD...

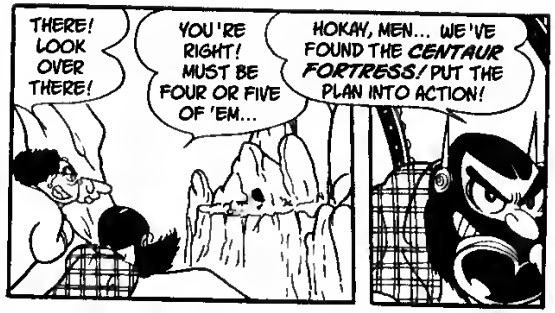

BUT I CAN'T GIVE UP NOW! I'VE GOTTA CATCH HIM AND ANNOUNCE IT IN MY NEWSPAPER! I'VE JUST GOT TO!
WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIM AROUND HERE FOR TEN DAYS ALREADY... .

WHAT DO YOU SEE?
TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF...


THOSE'RE FAINT HOOF PRINTS!
THAT'S GOTTA BE HIM. HE MUST BE IN THE AREA...



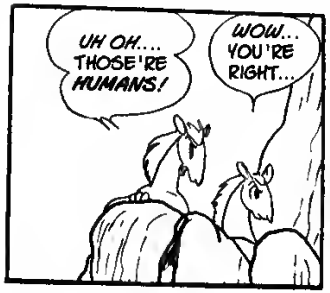
LOOK! HORSE HAIRS!


THERE! LOOK OVER THERE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! MUST BE FOUR OR FIVE OF 'EM...
HOKAY, MEN... WE'VE FOUND THE CENTAUR FORTRESS! PUT THE PLAN INTO ACTION!

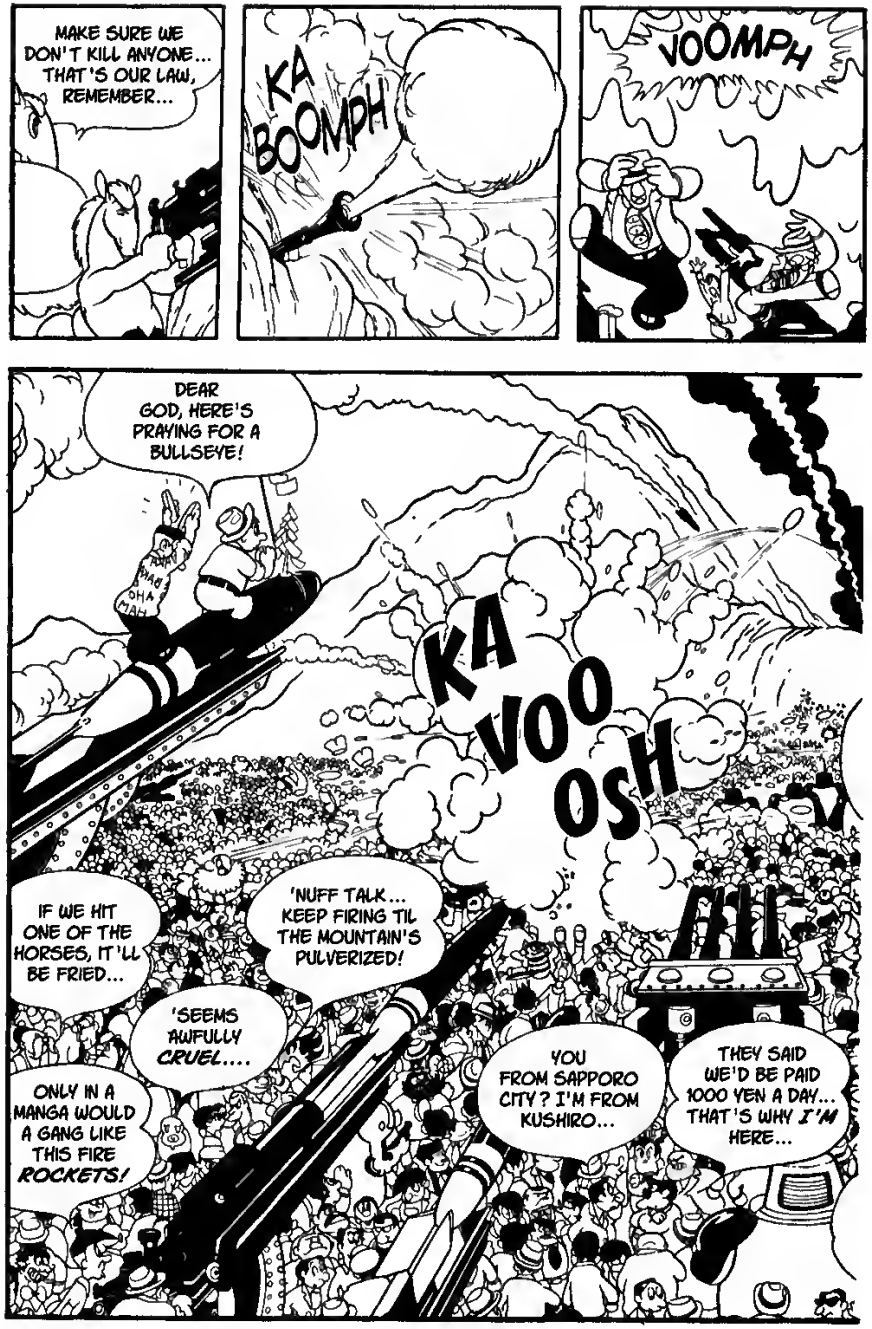
WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
IT'S MY MECHANIZED GANG....

WE'LL DRIVE THE HORSES DOWN TO THE FOOTHILLS USING MISSILES, FLAME THROWERS, BAZOOKAS, AND ROBOTANKS!

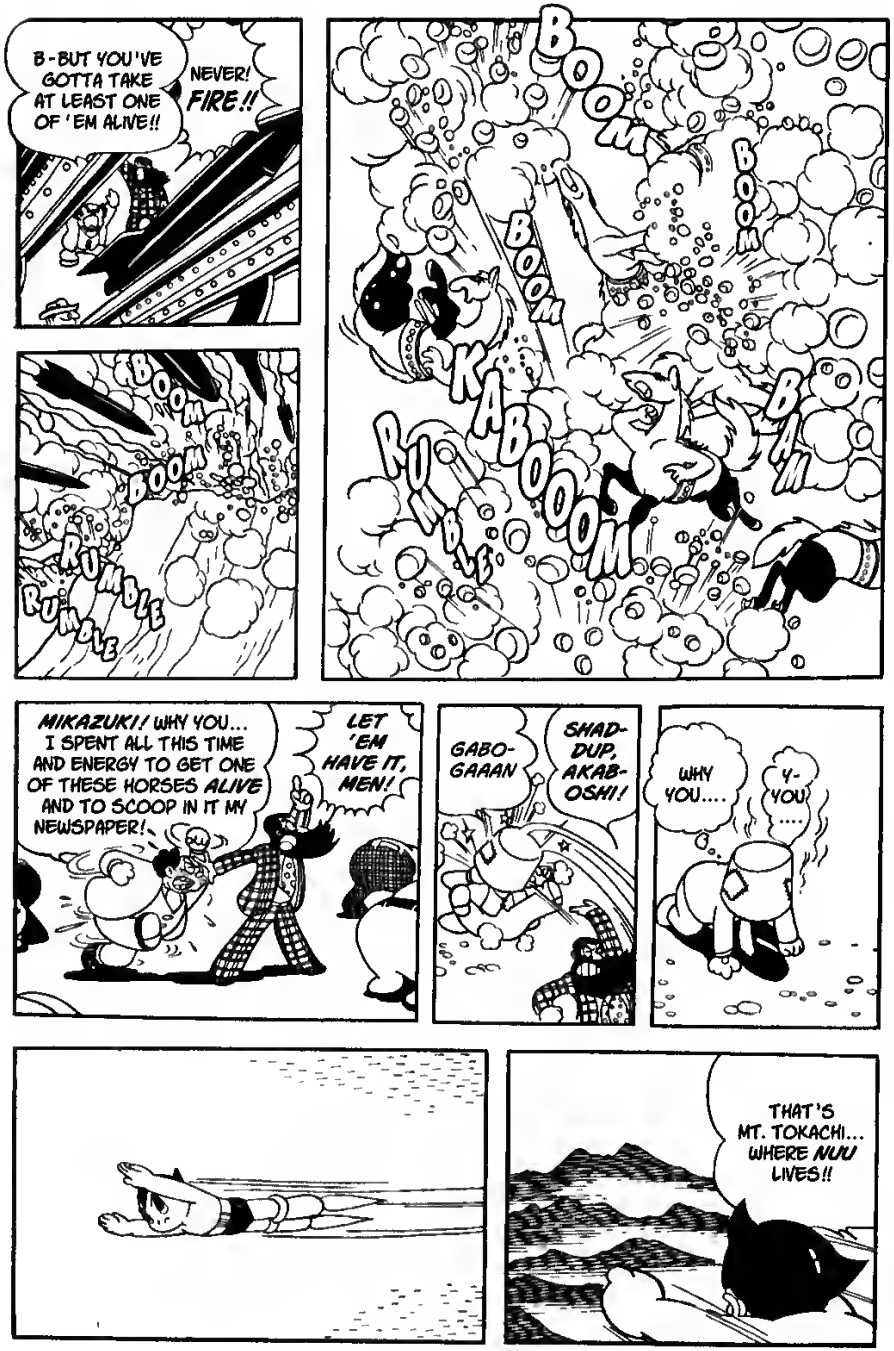
I HAVE TO DO IS PUT OUT THE WORD, AND MY GANGSTERS ALL OVER JAPAN START RIOTING!


UH OH.... THOSE'RE HUMANS!
WOW... YOU'RE RIGHT...

HOW'D THEY KNOW WHERE WE LIVE?
HORDES OF THEM ARE COMING UP HERE...
NO TIME FOR US TO FLEE! WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT!


MAKE SURE WE DON'T KILL ANYONE... THAT'S OUR LAW, REMEMBER...
KA BOOMPH
VOOMPH
DEAR GOD, HERE'S PRAYING FOR A BULLSEYE!
KA VOO OSH
IF WE HIT ONE OF THE HORSES, IT'LL BE FRIED...
'NUFF TALK... KEEP FIRING TIL THE MOUNTAIN'S PULVERIZED!
'SEEMS AWFULLY CRUEL....
ONLY IN A MANGA WOULD A GANG LIKE THIS FIRE ROCKETS!
YOU FROM SAPPORO CITY? I'M FROM KUSHIRO...
THEY SAID WE'D BE PAID 1000 YEN A DAY... THAT'S WHY I'M HERE...

HEY! IT'S BIRD-LIME GOO!!
BLAST IT! THOSE HORSES'RE MAKING A JACKASS OUT OF ME!!
I'LL SHOW 'EM! I'LL KILL 'EM ALL!!
WAIT, MIKAZUKI! THAT'S NOT WHAT WE AGREED ON! WE'VE GOTTA TAKE 'EM ALIVE!!
HECK NO! THE REPUTATION OF MY GANG'S AT STAKE HERE...
KA BOOOM
MODEL 10
UH OH... THE MISSILES WE SHOT ARE ALL BEING FIRED BACK AT US! WATCH OUT!
IF I CATCH A HORSE, I'M GONNA BUY A RANCH!
STOP, MIKAZUKI! YOU'LL KILL ALL THE HORSES!
SORRY, BUT THE ONLY WAY I'M GONNA REGAIN MY HONOR IS BY BLOWING 'EM UP!
WOW...
YOU'RE GETTING IN THE WAY, AKABOSHI!
HOKKAIDO HOBO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, OVER HERE!
WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE, WE OUGHTA CLEAN UP... WE OUGHTA GET AT LEAST A THOUSAND YEN IN HANDOUTS...

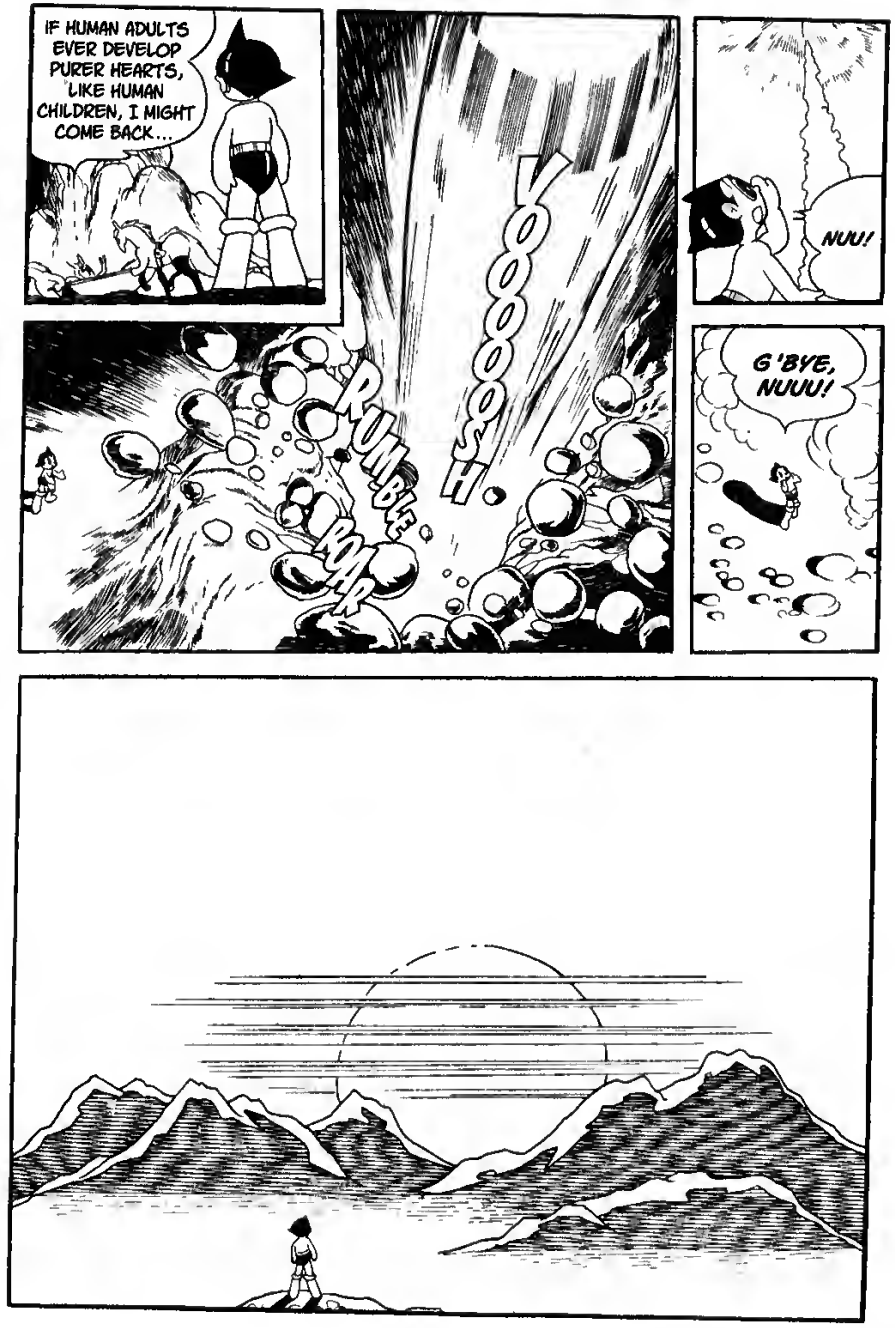

B-BUT YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE AT LEAST ONE OF 'EM ALIVE!!
NEVER! FIRE!!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
KABOOOM
BAM
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
BOOM
BOOM
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
MIKAZUKI! WHY YOU... I SPENT ALL THIS TIME AND ENERGY TO GET ONE OF THESE HORSES ALIVE AND TO SCOOP IN IT MY NEWSPAPER!
LET 'EM HAVE IT, MEN!
GABO-GAAAN
SHAD-DUP, AKAB-OSHI!
WHY YOU....
Y-YOU....
THAT'S MT. TOKACHI... WHERE NUU LIVES!!

WHA?! WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE'S NUU?
NUU!!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?!
STOP!
LAUNCH MORE MISSILES!
WATCH OUT, ASTRO! YOU'LL BE HIT!!
STAND BACK!!
ROAR
SCREEE
KAPHOOM
BOOM
KABOOOOM
TIME FOR A RETURN TRIP!

UH OH... THE ROBOTS ARE ATTACKING NEXT, ASTRO!
LEAVE THEM TO ME!
GA GA BEEEP
I WON'T LET YOU PASS!!
GAAN GON
YOU GUYS AREN'T REAL ROBOTS! YOU'RE FAKES!
OWWW OWWW!!
AIEEE!
THESE ROBO-SUITS'RE CHEAPOS!
NAW... IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND! ASTRO'S TOO WELL-MADE...
PANT GASP PANT PUFF
BLAST IT! IT'S ALL UP TO ME NOW!
ASTRO ...
IF THEY KEEP THIS UP, THEY'LL JUST RUIN THIS BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN...
LET'S GO BACK TO TOKYO, NUU!
NO, ASTRO... WE'VE DECIDED TO GO BACK TO OUR OWN PLANET...
YOUR OWN PLANET?
RIGHT. TO OUR HOME ...

OPEN MOUNTAIN! REVEAL ROCKET!
RUMBLE RUMBLE
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
WOW...
THIS IS THE ROCKET IN WHICH OUR ANCESTORS CAME TO EARTH LONG AGO. WE'VE KEPT IT HIDDEN IN THE MOUNTAINS ALL THIS TIME...
HURRY, NUU! GET ON BOARD!
NUU! YOU'RE NOT REALLY LEAVING, ARE YOU?
EVERYONE WILL BE SO DISAP-POINTED!
DO YOU REALLY HATE HUMANS THAT MUCH, NUU?
NO, OF COURSE I LIKE THEM... ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN...
BUT AS LONG AS ADULTS ACT THIS WAY...
... WE CAN'T SAFELY PLAY WITH THE KIDS...
YOU'VE GOTTA BELIEVE ME, NUU! HUMAN'S REALLY AREN'T SO BAD! HONEST!!

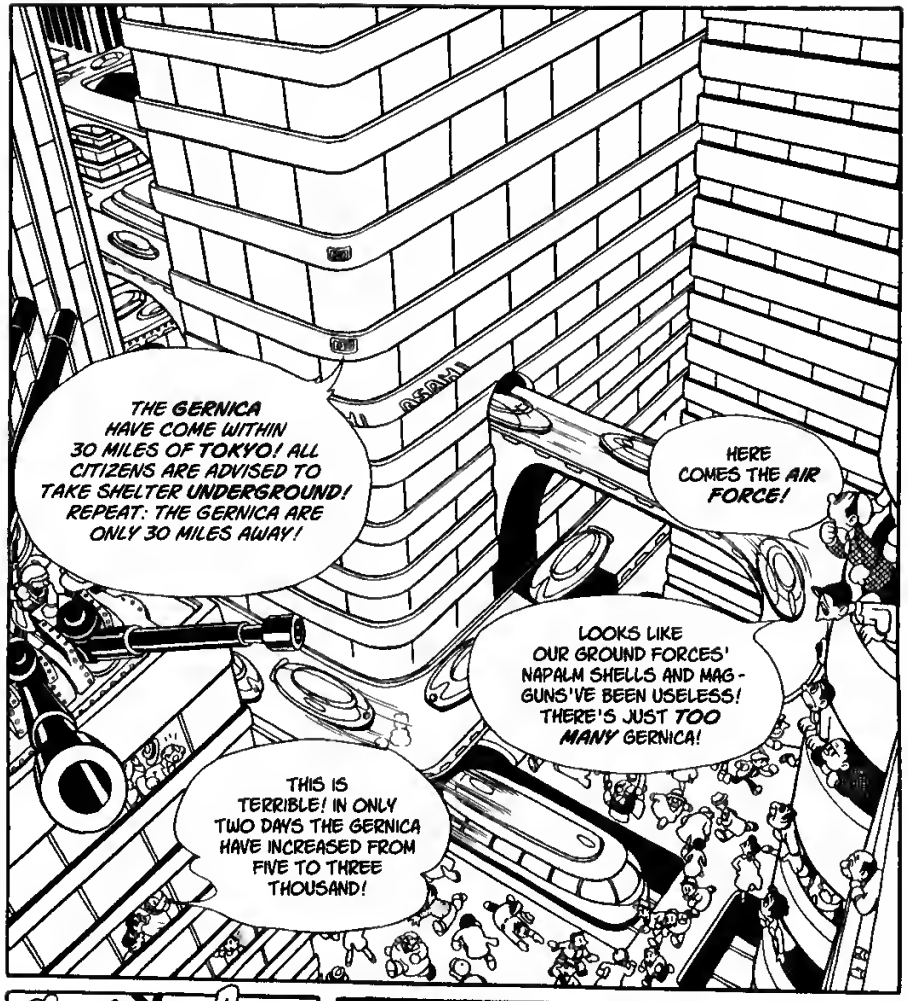
WHEE-EEE!
ZAP ZAP ZAP
YOU MONSTER!!
WHAT'VE YOU DONE?!!
NUU... YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT... I KNOW YOU WILL...
THANKS, ASTRO... BUT HE GOT ME IN MY WEAK SPOT... I'M FINISHED...
HERE'S THE MAN WHO DID IT, NUU... TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WITH HIM...
GIVE HIM A TASTE OF THE GAS...
YOU FIRE IT, ASTRO...
ACK! ....
ARGH ....
FZZZLT
ARGH... THIS IS TERRIBLE!
HALP HALP HALP!
ONCE HE BREATHES IT IN, HE'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT US...
SO YOU'LL LET HIM GO LIKE THAT...
GOSH, NUU... YOU GUYS'RE AWFULLY KIND HEARTED..
FAREWELL, ASTRO... I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU...
...SAY GOODBYE TO ACORN AND HIS PALS FOR ME...


IF HUMAN ADULTS EVER DEVELOP PURER HEARTS, LIKE HUMAN CHILDREN, I MIGHT COME BACK...
NUU!
RUMBLE ROAR
KOOOOSH!
G'BYE, NUUU!

ONE WEEK LATER, IN TOKYO...
NUU SAID TO SAY G'BYE TO YOU, ACORN...
NUU? WHO'S THAT?
WHAT? DON'T YOU REMEMBER? THE CENTAUR? THE HEAVEN HORSES? THE TENMA TRIBE?
TENMA? ONLY TENMA I'VE EVER HEARD OF IS A SCIENTIST ...
I GET IT.... YOU INHALED SOME OF THAT GAS, TOO! HEH HEH... I FORGOT ABOUT THAT...
I KNOW... I'LL SHOW YOU THIS...
THIS HELP YOU REMEMBER?
HMM... DOES LOOK KINDA FAMILIAR ...
YOU LIKE CARROTS, RIGHT?
I DID BEFORE...
GREEK MYTHS
...BUT NOT MUCH ANYMORE...
ACORN 'N ALL THE GUYS'VE ALL FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU, NUU, BUT I NEVER WILL!!
...'N I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU SAID, THAT SOMEDAY YOU MIGHT COME BACK!!
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, ASTRO?
AH, JUST FORGET IT...

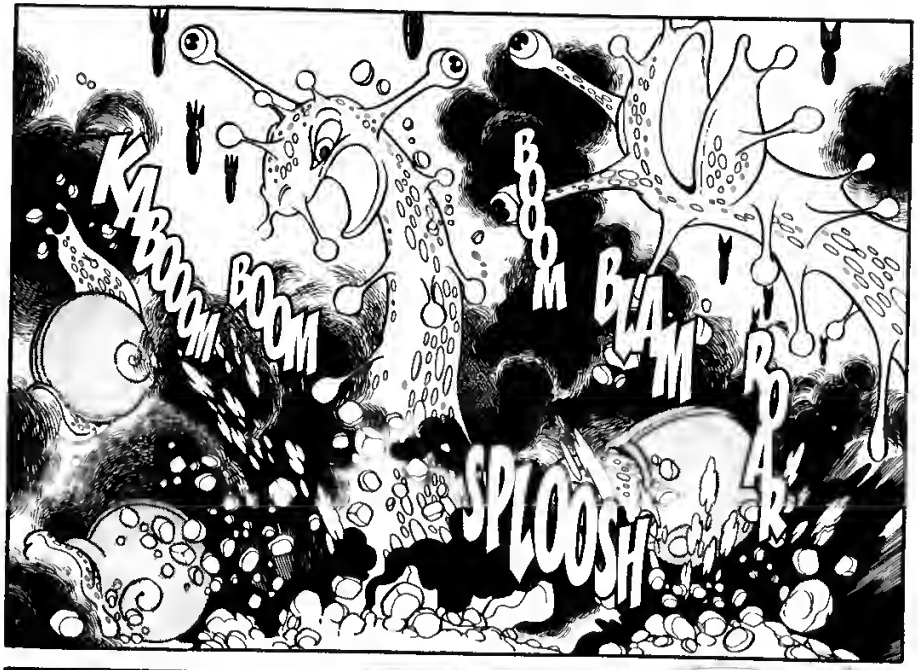
GERNICA

First appeared in the special expanded New Year's edition of *Shonen* magazine.


THE GERNICA HAVE COME WITHIN 30 MILES OF TOKYO! ALL CITIZENS ARE ADVISED TO TAKE SHELTER UNDERGROUND! REPEAT: THE GERNICA ARE ONLY 30 MILES AWAY!
HERE COMES THE AIR FORCE!
LOOKS LIKE OUR GROUND FORCES' NAPALM SHELLS AND MAG-GUNS'VE BEEN USELESS! THERE'S JUST TOO MANY GERNICA!
THIS IS TERRIBLE! IN ONLY TWO DAYS THE GERNICA HAVE INCREASED FROM FIVE TO THREE THOUSAND!

ROAR

ROAR
ROAR

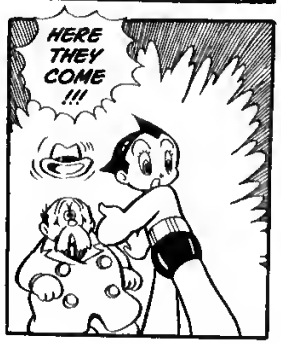

KABOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BLAM
BAR
SPLOOSH

NOTHING'S WORKING!!

THE MONSTERS'RE APPROACHING HACHIOJI CITY! HAJIOJI CITY IS NOW IN DANGER!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, ASTRO! EVEN YOU CAN'T TAKE ON THE GERNICA!

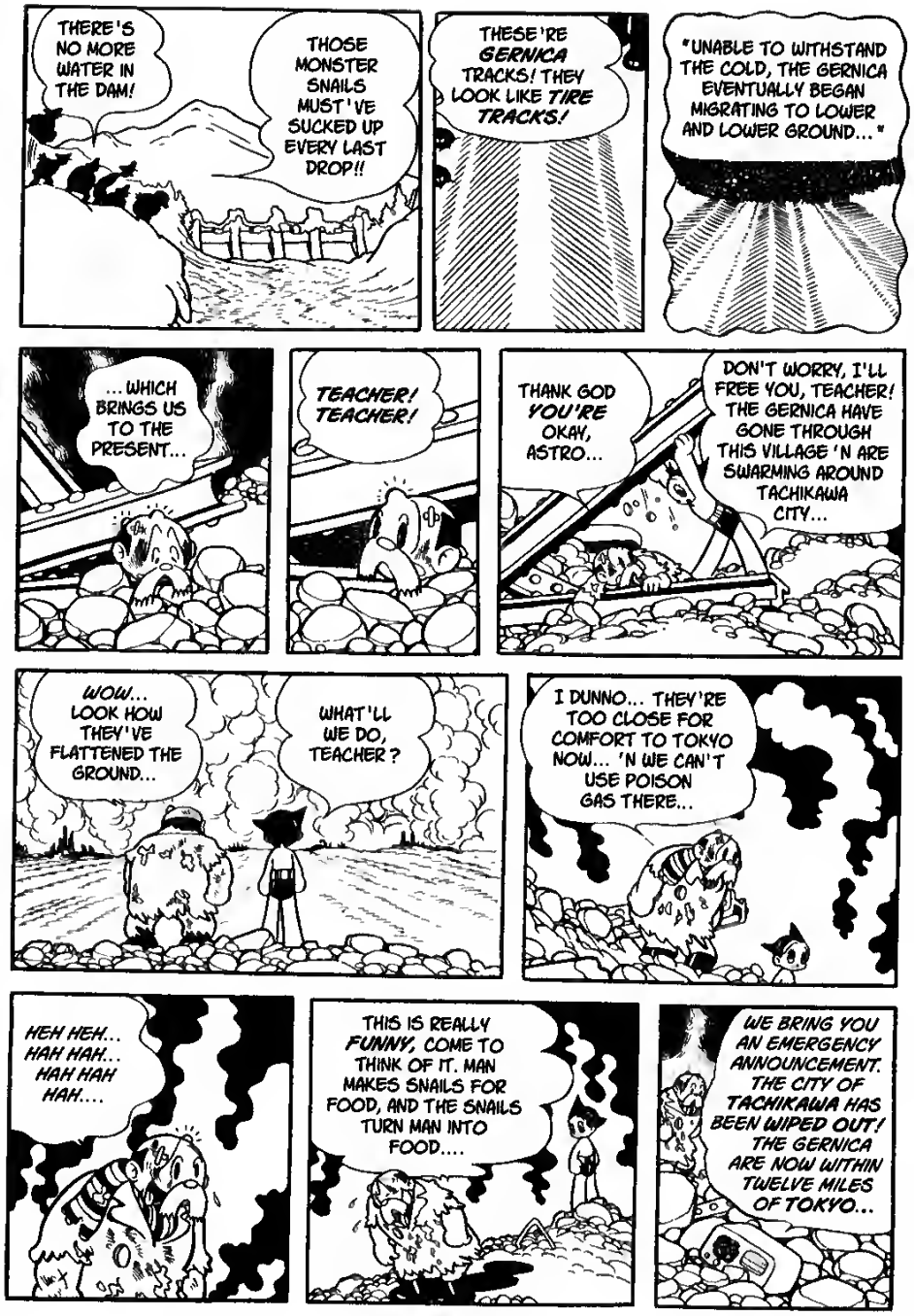
HELP THE KIDS EVACUATE, ASTRO! PROTECT 'EM!
NO, TEACHER! I'VE GOTTA FIGHT THE GER-NICA!

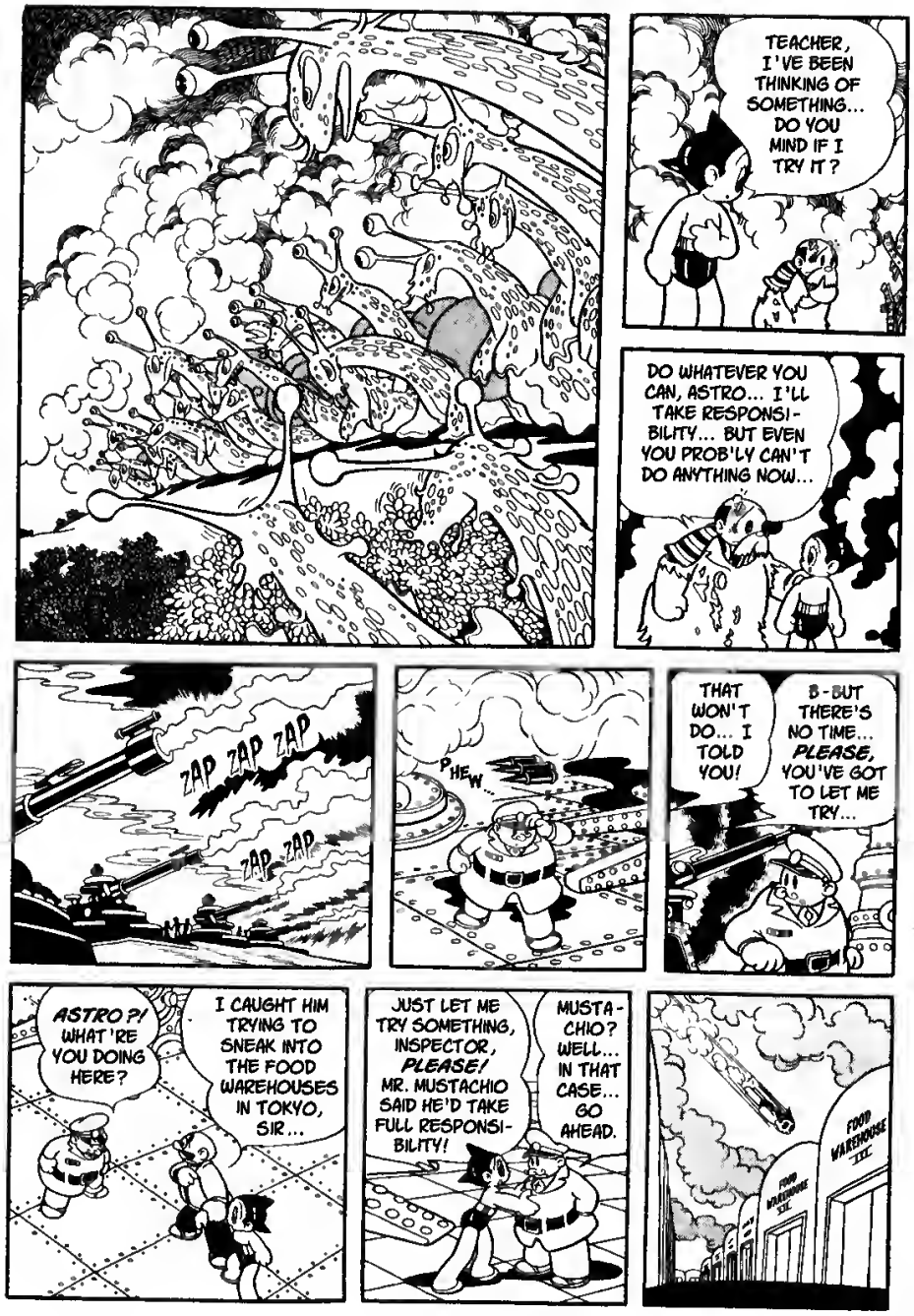

HERE THEY COME !!!

37TH ROBOT DIVISION! CHARGE!!
GAA GAAA GAAA GAA
SPLOOSH
FWHWT
ASTRO!! HAALP!
GRAAAR
IT'S NO USE! I'M FINISHED! TOKYO'S GONNA BE DESTROYED BY THE GERNICA!
A WEEK AGO, I NEVER WOULD'VE IMAGINED THIS!

"ONLY A WEEK AGO, I WAS SKIING IN OKUTANZAWA WITH MY STUDENTS..."
"YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS RECKLESS, AND ONE OF THE BOYS GOT OVER HIS HEAD IN THE SNOW THAT YEAR..."
KEEP DIGGING, TEACHER! WE'LL FIND HIM!
FUNNY HOW MOST OF THE PEOPLE WE'VE FOUND THIS YEAR'VE BEEN DRIED UP LIKE MUMMIES...
MR. MUSTACHIO! I FOUND THE BOY! HE'S STILL ALIVE!
THANK HEAVENS! BUT WE'VE GOTTA TREAT HIM FAST! MUST BE AN EMERGENCY HUT WE CAN TAKE HIM TO...
NO HUT AROUND HERE, BUT THERE'S A BUILDING BY THE DAM...
HE'S DOING A LOT BETTER NOW! THANKS FOR LETTING US SHELTER HERE, SIR!
THINK NOTHING OF IT! THIS HOT MEAT DISH'LL MAKE HIM FEEL BETTER! HA HA HA HA!
HMM. WHAT IS THIS DISH, ANYWAY? TASTES GOOD, BUT IT'S KIND OF UNUSUAL...
HA HA! GUESS!
MUST BE LAMB!
MAYBE IT'S WILD BOAR...
MONKEY MEAT?
}GAG{ ...
YOU'RE ALL WRONG! IT'S SNAIL MEAT!
DID YOU SAY "SNAIL MEAT"?!
SURE. IT'S A SPECIAL TYPE OF MUTANT SNAIL THAT I CREATED DURING MY RESEARCH SOME 25 YEARS AGO. BIG AS OXEN! I CALL 'EM GERNICA!
BASICALLY, I DISCOVERED THERE WERE UNUSUALLY LARGE SNAILS GROWING NEAR THE DAM. I DECIDED TO ASSIST THEIR EVOLUTION AND TO CREATE GIANT EDIBLE SNAILS.... WHAT DO YOU THINK? NOT BAD, EH? PERFECT FOR A COUNTRY LIKE JAPAN WITH SUCH LIMITED FOOD RESOURCES...

B-BUT WHAT DO THESE MONSTER SNAILS EAT?
OH, THEY ONLY NEED WATER AND A LITTLE FOOD. THEY'RE REAL FRIENDLY, 'N I LET 'EM ROAM AROUND ON THE SNOW-COVERED SLOPES HERE...
YOU WHAT?! YOU LET 'EM ROAM FREE?!
HEY! THERE'S A BUTTON THERE! AND IT'S GOT MY SCHOOL EMBLEM ON IT!
I GET IT! THIS GIANT SNAIL MUST'VE ATTACKED MY STUDENT WHO GOT LOST! THAT'S WHY HE WAS SO DEHYDRATED...
W-WAIT A MINUTE! WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'VE GOT NO PROOF OF THAT!!
LISTEN, JUST DON'T LET THOSE MONSTER ROAM FREE, OKAY? IT'S DANGEROUS!
DANGEROUS? HA HA HA! DON'T YOU KNOW? SNAILS ARE AMONG THE MOST GENTLE CREATURES ON EARTH!
NO! THEY'LL KILL PEOPLE BY SUCKING THE WATER OUT OF 'EM!
I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT YOUR IMAGINATION'S FAR TOO VIVID!
I'M GOING TO BREED THESE SNAILS, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS. THEN I'LL GET EVERYONE IN JAPAN TO EAT THEIR MEAT!
BUT THE VERY NEXT DAY, A TERRIBLE THING HAPPENED...
"THE SCIENTIST MET THE SAME FATE AS PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS IN THE AREA!"

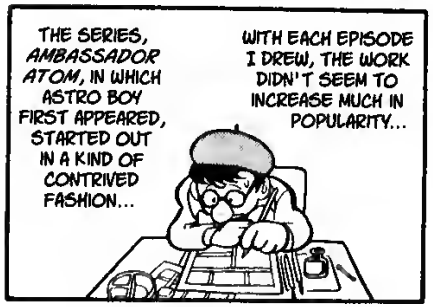

THERE'S NO MORE WATER IN THE DAM!
THOSE MONSTER SNAILS MUST'VE SUCKED UP EVERY LAST DROP!!
THESE'RE GERNICA TRACKS! THEY LOOK LIKE TIRE TRACKS!
"UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE COLD, THE GERNICA EVENTUALLY BEGAN MIGRATING TO LOWER AND LOWER GROUND..."
...WHICH BRINGS US TO THE PRESENT...
TEACHER! TEACHER!
THANK GOD YOU'RE OKAY, ASTRO...
DON'T WORRY, I'LL FREE YOU, TEACHER! THE GERNICA HAVE GONE THROUGH THIS VILLAGE 'N ARE SWARMING AROUND TACHIKAWA CITY...
WOW... LOOK HOW THEY'VE FLATTENED THE GROUND...
WHAT'LL WE DO, TEACHER?
I DUNNO... THEY'RE TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT TO TOKYO NOW... 'N WE CAN'T USE POISON GAS THERE...
HEH HEH... HAH HAH... HAH HAH HAH....
THIS IS REALLY FUNNY, COME TO THINK OF IT. MAN MAKES SNAILS FOR FOOD, AND THE SNAILS TURN MAN INTO FOOD....
WE BRING YOU AN EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT. THE CITY OF TACHIKAWA HAS BEEN WIPED OUT! THE GERNICA ARE NOW WITHIN TWELVE MILES OF TOKYO...

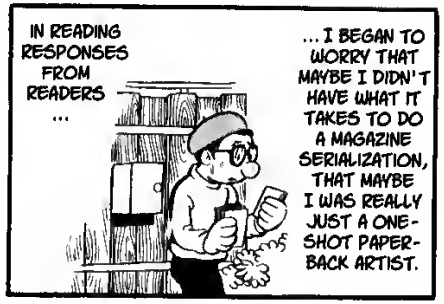

TEACHER, I'VE BEEN THINKING OF SOMETHING... DO YOU MIND IF I TRY IT?
DO WHATEVER YOU CAN, ASTRO... I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY... BUT EVEN YOU PROB'LY CAN'T DO ANYTHING NOW...
ZAP ZAP ZAP
ZAP ZAP
PHEW...
THAT WON'T DO... I TOLD YOU!
B-BUT THERE'S NO TIME... PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME TRY...
ASTRO?! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
I CAUGHT HIM TRYING TO SNEAK INTO THE FOOD WAREHOUSES IN TOKYO, SIR...
JUST LET ME TRY SOMETHING, INSPECTOR, PLEASE! MR. MUSTACHIO SAID HE'D TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY!
MUSTACHIO? WELL... IN THAT CASE... GO AHEAD.
FOOD WAREHOUSE III
FOOD WAREHOUSE III

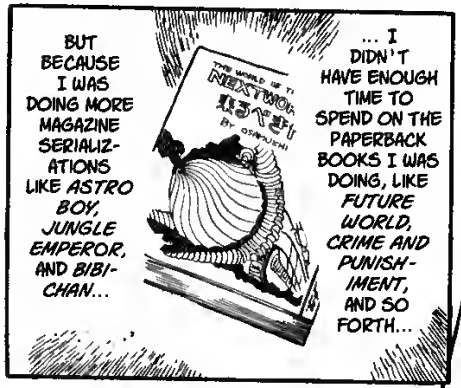
ONLY ONE MORE MILE, FOLKS, BEFORE THEY ENTER MITAKA CITY HERE! FIGHTER PLANES ARE FLYING OVERHEAD, AND, WAIT, THERE'S A ROBOT, TOO!
IT APPEARS TO BE CARRYING SOMETHING... SOMETHING EXTREMELY LARGE!
A STRANGE WHITE POWDER'S FALLING FROM THE SKY... DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE SNOW, FOLKS... IT'S A MYSTERY... WAIT, SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO THE MONSTER SNAILS!
THE SNAILS ARE IN AGONY! THEY'RE LOSING THEIR COORDINATION! THIS IS A SURPRISE! A REAL SURPRISE, FOLKS!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
WHAT IS THAT WHITE STUFF?
WHO CARES! KEEP FIRING! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!!
THE GERNICA ARE DYING, ONE-BY-ONE, BEFORE OUR EYES!
A MIRACLE IS OCCURRING, FOLKS! THE AUTHORITIES'RE NOW TRYING TO IDENTIFY THAT STRANGE WHITE SUBSTANCE!
WE HAVE AN ANSWER! WE HAVE ISOLATED THE POWDER'S COMPONENTS! WHILE WE WERE TRYING TO STOP THE GERNICA USING POISON GAS, FLAME THROWERS, AND MAG-CANNONS...
...THE ROBOT USED A MUCH MORE PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY TO DESTROY THEM!
HE USED SALT!

ASTRO BOY'S ORIGINS AND HISTORY

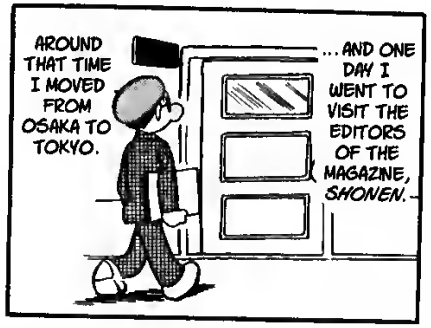
PART 2

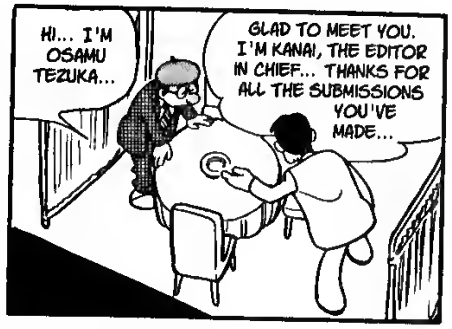

THE SERIES, AMBASSADOR ATOM, IN WHICH ASTRO BOY FIRST APPEARED, STARTED OUT IN A KIND OF CONTRIVED FASHION...
WITH EACH EPISODE I DREW, THE WORK DIDN'T SEEM TO INCREASE MUCH IN POPULARITY...

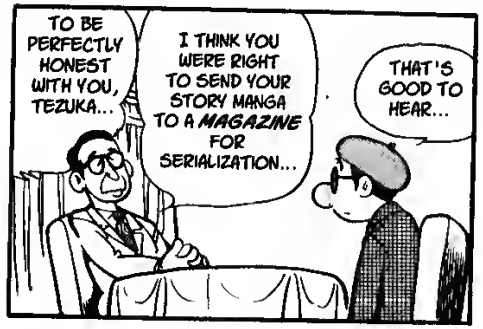

IN READING RESPONSES FROM READERS ...
...I BEGAN TO WORRY THAT MAYBE I DIDN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO DO A MAGAZINE SERIALIZATION, THAT MAYBE I WAS REALLY JUST A ONE-SHOT PAPERBACK ARTIST.

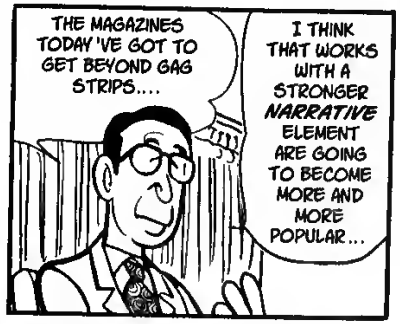

BUT BECAUSE I WAS DOING MORE MAGAZINE SERIALIZATIONS LIKE ASTRO BOY, JUNGLE EMPEROR, AND BIBI-CHAN...
... I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO SPEND ON THE PAPERBACK BOOKS I WAS DOING, LIKE FUTURE WORLD, CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, AND SO FORTH...

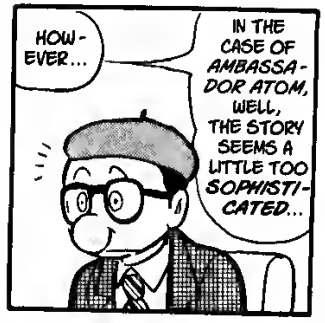
I CREATED THE NEW YEAR'S CARD AT RIGHT IN 1952. IT SHOWS THE CHARACTERS FROM THE FOLLOWING WORKS:
[1+2] *BIBICHAN* ("LITTLE BIBI," THEN SERIALIZED IN *OMOSHIRO BOOK*).
[3+4] *JUNGLE EMPEROR* (KNOWN AS *"KIMBA, THE WHITE LION"* IN AMERICA, SERIALIZED IN *MANGA SHONEN*)
[5+6] *DEKOBOKO SERIES* (*"UNEVEN SERIES"* IN *MANGA TO YOMIMONO*)
[7] *SABOTEN-KUN* ("CACTUS KID," IN *SHONEN GAHO*)
[8] *BOKU NO SONGOKU* ("MY MONKEY KING," THEN SCHEDULED FOR SERIALIZATION IN *MANGA-O*).
[9] *BOKENKYO JIDAI* ("THE AGE OF ADVENTURES," IN *BOKEN-O*).
[10+11] *AMBASSADOR ATOM*. NOTE THAT THE CHARACTER ATOM (OR ASTRO), DOESN'T APPEAR ANYWHERE. IN OTHER WORDS, IN 1952 ASTRO WAS STILL A BIT-PART PLAYER!

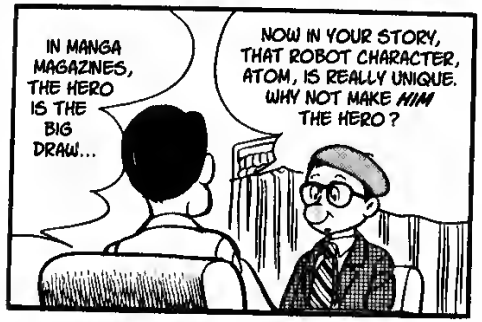


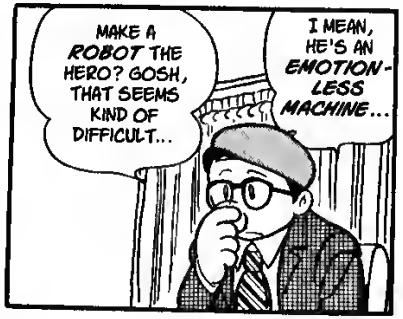



TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST WITH YOU, TEZUKA...
I THINK YOU WERE RIGHT TO SEND YOUR STORY MANGA TO A MAGAZINE FOR SERIALIZATION...
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR...


THE MAGAZINES TODAY'VE GOT TO GET BEYOND GAG STRIPS....
I THINK THAT WORKS WITH A STRONGER NARRATIVE ELEMENT ARE GOING TO BECOME MORE AND MORE POPULAR...




IN MANGA MAGAZINES, THE HERO IS THE BIG DRAW...
NOW IN YOUR STORY, THAT ROBOT CHARACTER, ATOM, IS REALLY UNIQUE. WHY NOT MAKE HIM THE HERO?



"YOUR READERS DON'T REALLY THINK OF ATOM AS A ROBOT, TEZUKA.... THEY THINK HE'S A BOY, LIKE THEM..."
"SO YOU OUGHT TO MAKE HIM MORE LIKE A HUMAN CHILD. MAKE HIM A WARMER, MORE EMOTIVE, HUMAN-LIKE ROBOT... ONE WHO CAN CRY AND LAUGH AND WHO FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE..."
HMM... "A WARMER, MORE EMOTIVE, HUMAN-LIKE ROBOT..."
HOW CAN I MAKE HIM A MORE HUMAN-LIKE ROBOT?
I KNOW... I'LL GIVE HIM A FAMILY!
HE'LL NEED PARENTS!
SO THAT'S HOW THE FIRST EPISODE OF MIGHTY ATOM, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ASTRO BOY, BEGAN... IT WAS THE STORY OF THE CREATION OF ASTRO'S PARENTS--AND IT'S INCLUDED IN THE FIRST PART OF "GAS PEOPLE" IN VOLUME 15 OF THIS SERIES.
THE END

Osamu Tezuka's Original
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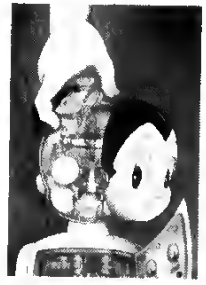
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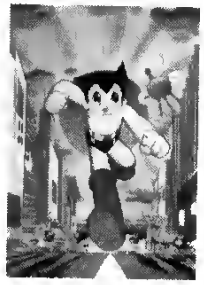
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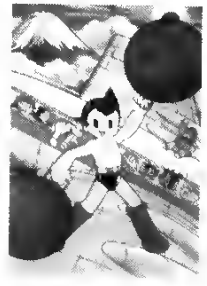
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